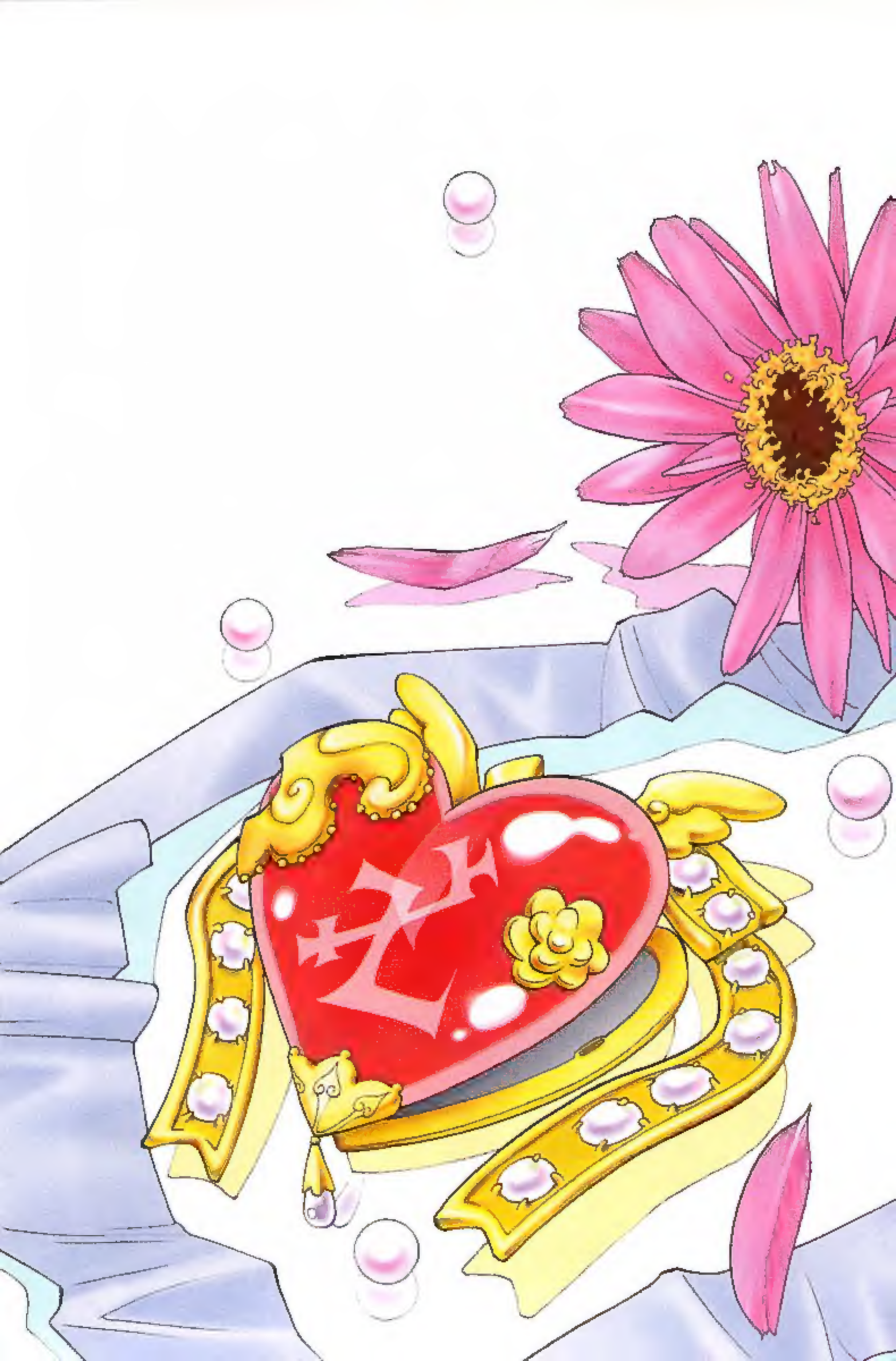
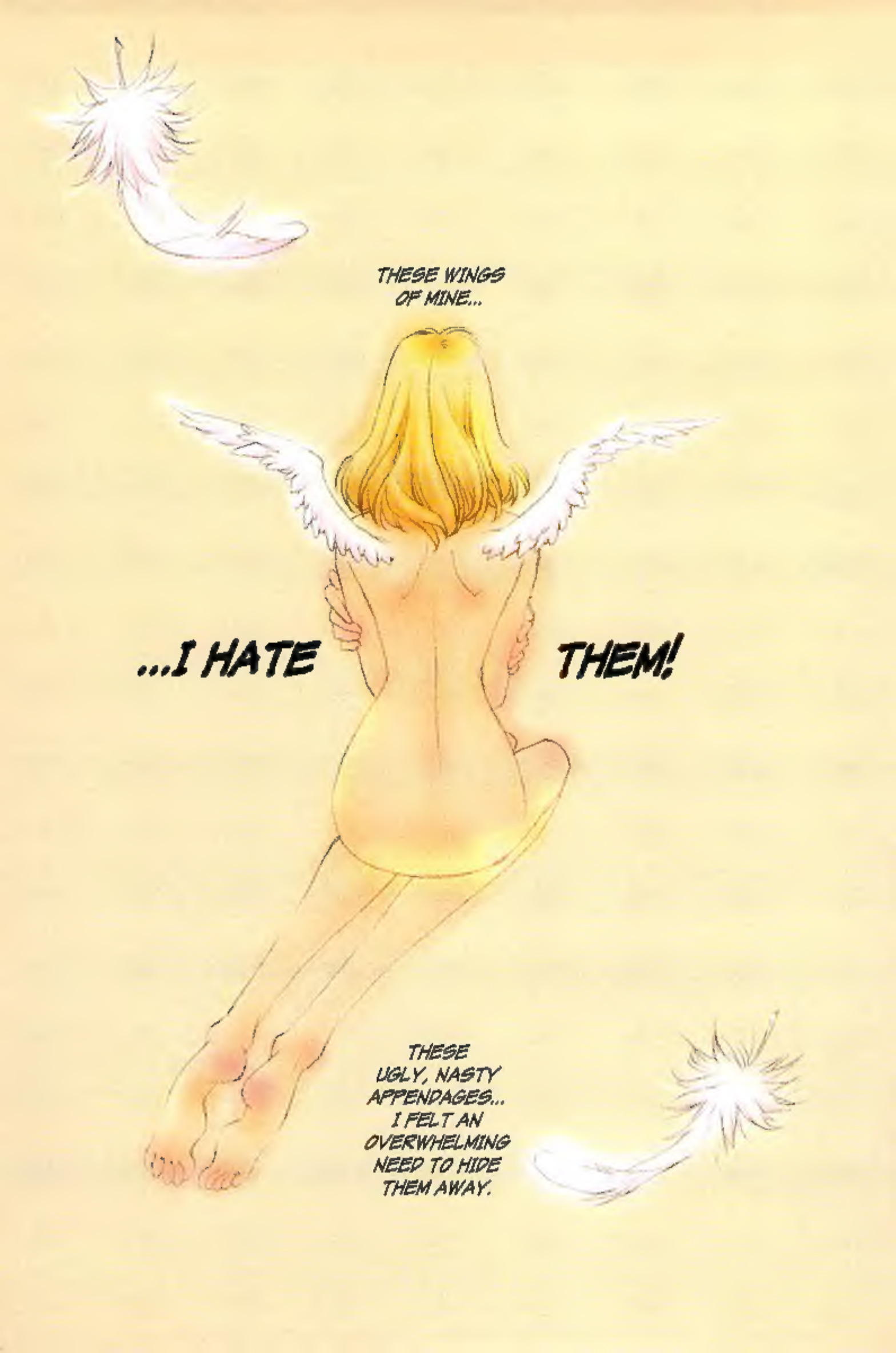
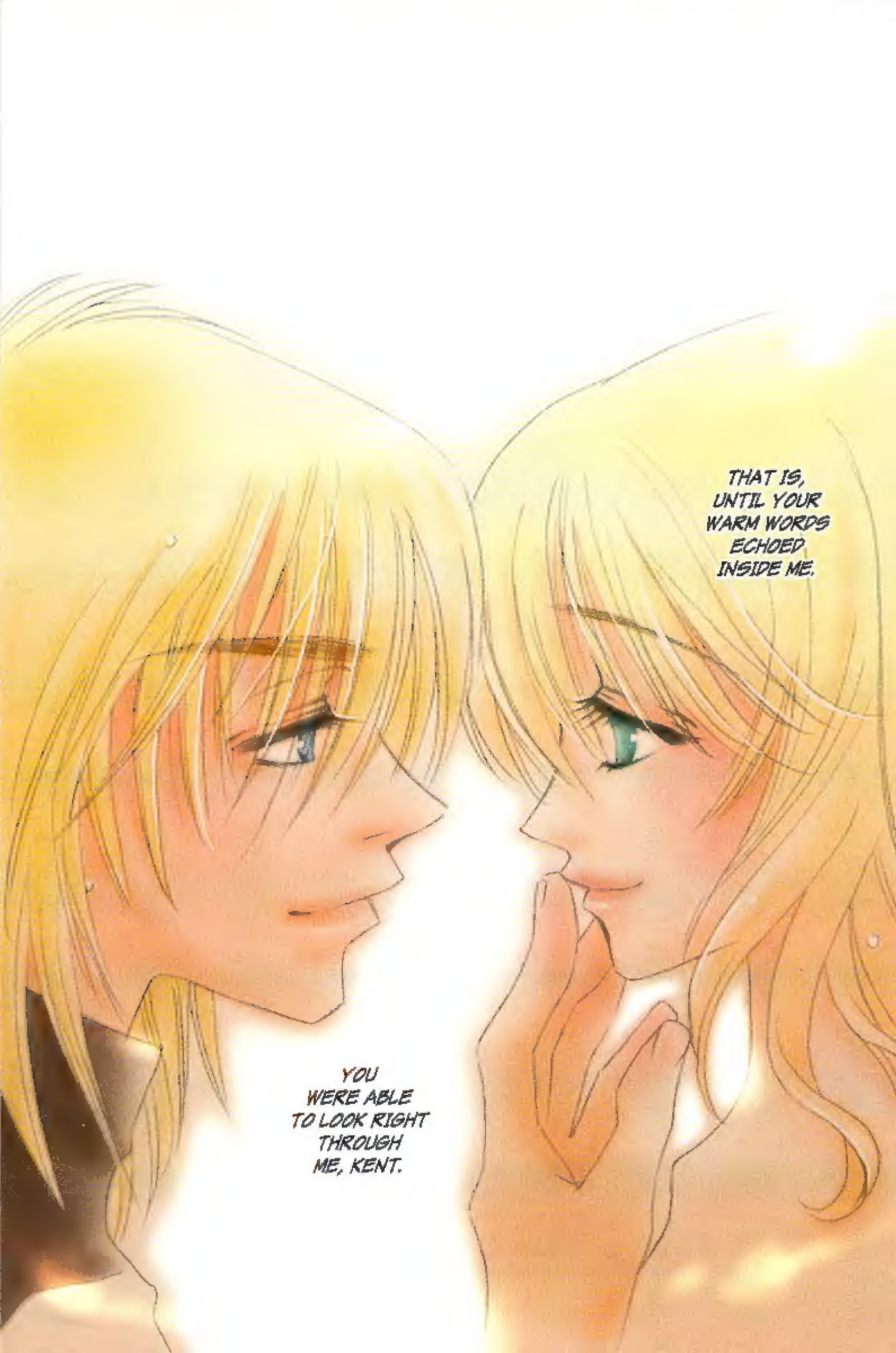



THESE WINGS OF MINE...
...I HATE
THEM!
THESE UGLY, NASTY APPENDAGES... I FELT AN OVERWHELMING NEED TO HIDE THEM AWAY.


THAT IS, UNTIL YOUR WARM WORDS ECHOED INSIDE ME.
YOU WERE ABLE TO LOOK RIGHT THROUGH ME, KENT.

Princess Ai™

Luminiation

2

By Misaho Kujiradou, Courtney Love & D.J. Milky

TOKYOPOP

Princess
Ai
TM

Princess Ai Vol. 2 Lumination
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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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Princess Ai™

VOLUME 2: LUMINATION

CREATED BY
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WRITTEN BY
MISAHO KUJIRADOU & D.J. MILKY

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Princess Ai™

Story Thus Far

Not long ago, in the Shinjuku section of Tokyo, a beautiful young woman awoke in a shabby alley to find her clothes–and her memory–in tatters. Wandering into the night, she discovered that she knew three things for sure: her name was Ai, she was not from Earth, and she was looking for something...but she didn't know what.

Before she could get far, a young thief snatched her one valuable possession: an ornate, heart-shaped box. Ai's pursuit of the thief was cut short when Kent–a handsome, young, college librarian for Shinjuku University–tackled the robber for her. What Kent didn't know is that the thief was already mysteriously weakened...though he was far too taken by Ai's beauty and charm to dwell on the passed-out perp.

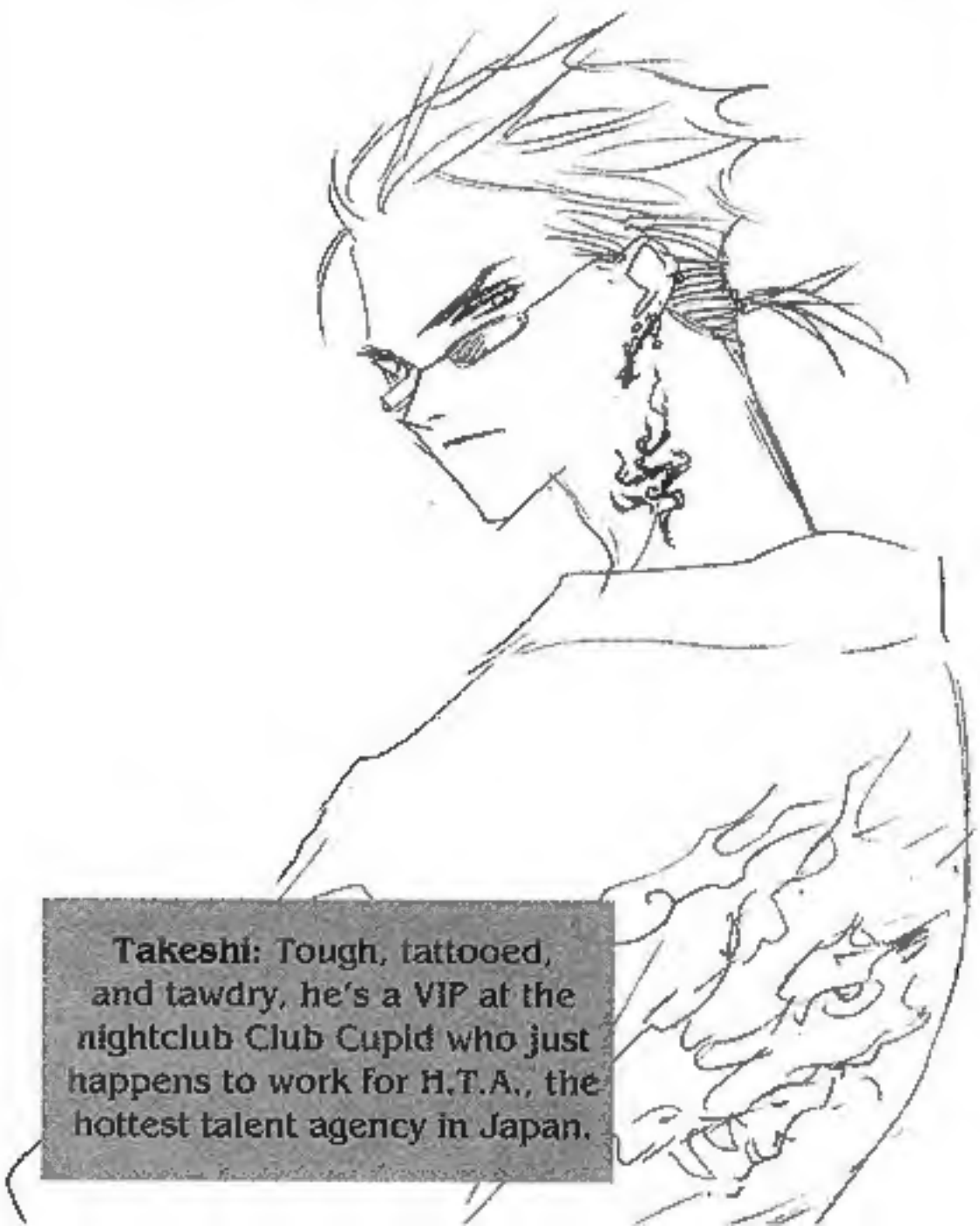
With nowhere to go, Ai accompanied Kent to the Shinjuku University library. Kent and Ai grew closer to one another as the evening progressed, and Kent gave Ai a tour of his workplace. Ai searched through the library in an attempt to jog her memory, and found a mysterious, old,

Princess Ai: A beguiling woman with an outrageous fashion sense, a voice like an angel, and a mind all her own.

very well be pursuing her, Ai hid in the park near Shinjuku University library and fell asleep. Kent found Ai in the park the following morning and took her back to the apartment he shared with his jealous, gay roommate Hikaru. Though Hikaru despised Ai on sight, Kent still gave her a key to the apartment so she could come and go as she pleased.

Ai spent the following day at the library, where the special book led her to a vision of her father and a glimpse of Ai-Land, the kingdom for which she was named. That night, Ai debuted at Club Cupid and caught the eye of Takeshi, a talent scout for Hayabusa Talent Agency (H.T.A.). Ai's performance brought the patrons at Club Cupid to their feet...and Takeshi to the office of H.T.A.'s founder.

Meanwhile, in Ai-Land, Kaz, one of the Angels in charge of the Second Revolution, quarreled with Nora, his cousin and co-conspirator. Kaz took Nora to task for Nora's soft stance on Humans in general and Ai in particular. In return, Nora chastised Kaz for sending the dragon-winged Furie known as Tess after Ai...though there seemed to be nothing Nora or Kaz could do other than wait for news from the Other Side.



Takeshi: Tough, tattooed, and tawdry, he's a VIP at the nightclub Club Cupid who just happens to work for H.T.A., the hottest talent agency in Japan.

Kent: A sweet, guitar-playing college librarian who offered Ai his home and his heart to keep her safe.

unmarked book full of blank pages. As she concentrated on the book, a faint image of a crest began to appear on one page...but exhaustion took its toll and Ai fell asleep before she could learn more.

Awakened by loudspeaker announcements that the library was closing, Ai wandered back into the night. Hungry, Ai met men who were more than willing to buy her food, but she was unwilling to give them the kind of reciprocation they desired. Resolving to earn a living on her own terms, Ai met Fa'an, a street performer with a guitar, and began to sing along with him. As she sang, she remembered that, in her homeland, music and song were always a part of her. By the song's end, Ai had attracted a small crowd and Fa'an had raised ten times his usual income. One member of the crowd was an employee of Club Cupid, a high-class burlesque club. Ai refused to strip, but promised the club's manager that he wouldn't regret letting her sing.

Ai made a deal to sing on the following night, but she still had no money and nowhere to go. Worse still, the gems on her heart shaped box began to flash as if to warn her. Realizing that someone from her homeland could

Closing in on Ai, Tess detected Ai's scent on Kent and attacked him while he was taking a break at work. Refusing to tell Tess where to find Ai, Kent slammed Tess in the face with his guitar. Before Kent could make a clean getaway, the Furie managed to scratch his neck with her talons. Returning home, Kent asked Ai for information about Tess, but Ai decided she'd protect him best by leaving.

Walking the streets, Ai bumped into Fa'an. The enigmatic street musician gave her a special key that opened her seemingly impenetrable heart-shaped box. Inside the box, Ai discovered a beautiful heart-shaped pendant. Before she could question Fa'an about the key, Ai was interrupted by Takeshi, who wanted Ai to sign a deal with H.T.A. Though only distracted for a moment, when Ai turned to look for Fa'an, all she found was a single anemone where he had been sitting.

Ai refused Takeshi's offer of employment and she moved into a shabby hotel, only to be attacked by Tess. During the struggle with the Furie, Ai's shirt was torn, revealing two small, white wings on her shoulder blades. Even with Kent's help, Ai barely escaped from Tess...and Ai realized she needed the kind of security and protection that H.T.A. could provide.

That night, Takeshi brought Hayabusa to see Ai perform at Club Cupid. Tess attacked Ai during the show, but Ai--with Takeshi's help--escaped once again. Face-to-face with Hayabusa, Ai agreed to sign with H.T.A., though she couldn't help but wonder if she was merely running away again... and if her search would always force her to be alone.

Hikaru: Kent's jealous and possessive gay roommate he hated Princess Ai on sight. Though Hikaru is in love with Kent, Kent has not returned Hikaru's affections. Yet.

Jen: The one singer at Club Cupid who takes the time to befriend Ai.

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Princess Ai

CHAPTER 6

THOSE DREADFUL HUMANS...

HOW THEY FRUSTRATE ME!

THESE WINGS THAT I'VE HATED SO MUCH...

...SINCE YOU SAID THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL... NOW THEY'RE NOT SO BAD.

MY POOR TIRED LORD

MLGGI

I M AT YOUR SERVICE MY LORD

ONLY BY CAPTURING THEIR PRECIOUS PRINCESS AI WILL WE BREAK THE HUMANS DOWN

THE HUMANS HAVE PUSHED US BACK

NORA S BECOME WEAK-- DISTRACTED WITH PETTY EMOTION

MY LORD PLEASE LET ME SERVE YOU'RE NEEDS AND CAPTURE THE EVIL HUMAN PRINCESS WHO HAS TEMPTED NORA

TIME S RUNNING OUT WHAT IS IT WITH TESS" I M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY PATIENCE WITH HER

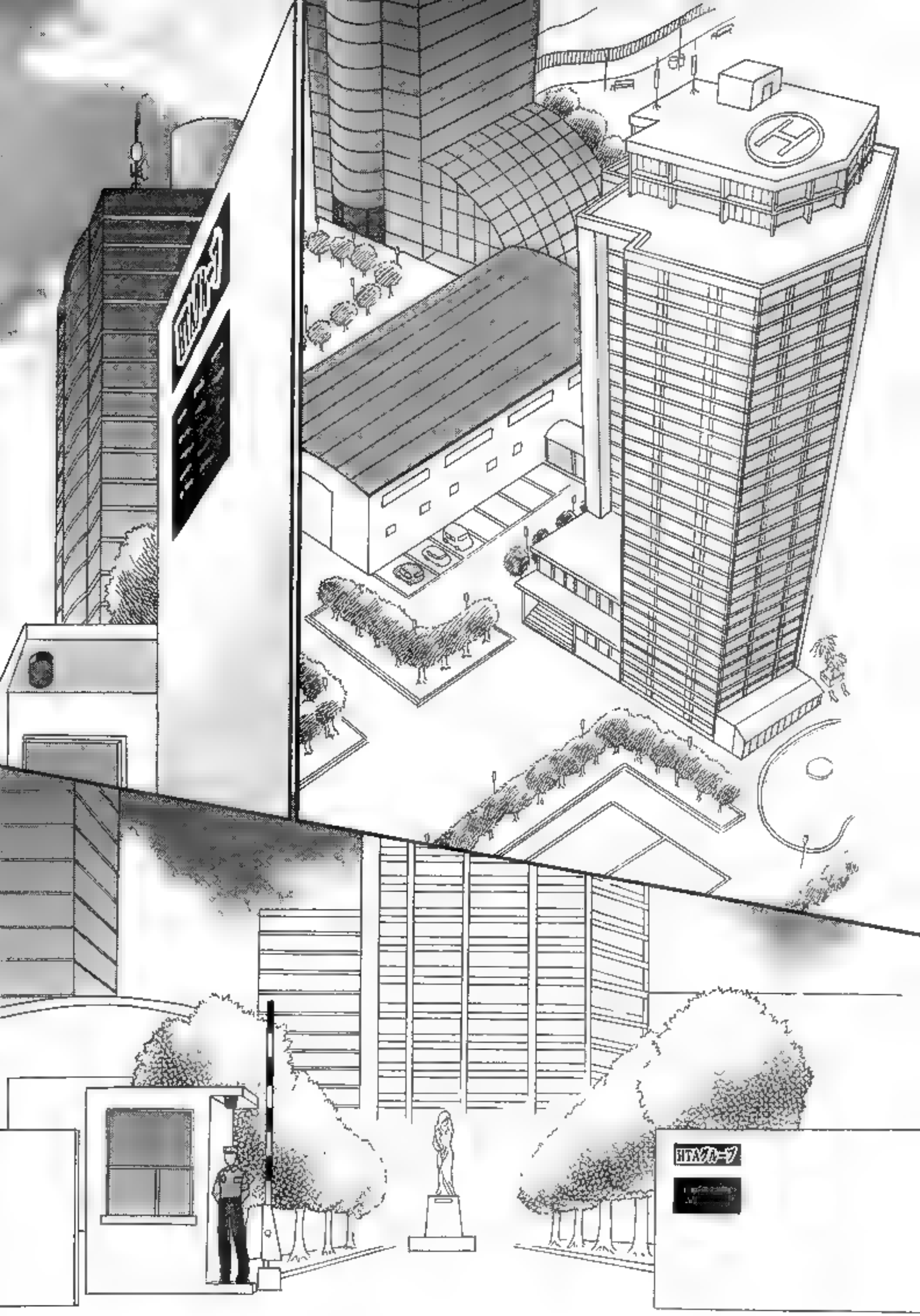
YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS REFRESHING BUT I MUST GIVE TESS ONE MORE CHANCE.

MEGGI..

ALL OF THE FURIES ARE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS IN THE SECOND REVOLUTION CAPTURING AI IS CRITICAL TO OUR MISSION BUT IT HURTS US TO HAVE EVEN ONE OF YOU ON EARTH MEGGI I NEED YOUR SKILLS HERE IN AI-LAND

YES MY LORD

.....


HTAグループ

H.T.A. TREATS THEIR ARTISTS SO WELL--PUTTING THEM UP IN SUCH BEAUTIFUL LUXURY CONDOS.

ピッ

20 40

9 39

8 38

7 37

ポーン

PRINCESS?

AWMIGOD!

YOU IN THERE?

knock knock

I'M BACK FROM THE STORE, PRINCESS! ♡

PRINCESS AI...?

ハァハァ

ムニュ

UH OH... BUSTED...

YOU'RE GOING TO SERIOUSLY INJURE YOURSELF! GET UP HERE!

yank

HEY! NOT SO FAST, YOSHI--I'M LOSING MY BALANCE!

OH NOOOO! PRINCESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

AWMIGOD!

YIKES!

WAGH!

UPSY-DAISY!

WHAT'S ALL THE COM-MOTION?

PRINCESS? YOSHI?

BUT THE PRINCESS WANTED SOME SPECIAL HERB TEA, AND I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP...

sob

YOSHI, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET AI OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.

sniffle

PRINCESS, WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS?!

huff huff huff

Hiro got suckered into helping.

I SIGNED ON TO BE A SINGER-- NOT A PRISONER.

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LOCKING ME UP HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IT'S TIME THAT YOU FOCUS ON YOUR SONGWRITING AND MUSIC OBLIGATIONS, PRINCESS.

SCREW THAT FIRE-SPITTING, DRAGON-WINGED WITCH!

HMPH.

--WE NEED TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE STALKER THAT IS AFTER YOU-- SO ALL OF H.T.A. HAS BEEN PUT ON RED ALERT WITH TOP SECURITY FOR YOUR SAFETY!

TAKESHI'S ORDERS WERE VERY STRICT--

THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, PRINCESS.

POOR YOSHI-- HE MEANS WELL.

--I'VE MET MY OBLIGATIONS-- WROTE A BUNCH OF SONGS, DID INTERVIEWS, WHATEVER!

IT'S BEEN WEEKS NOW SINCE I SIGNED WITH H.T.A.--

B-BUT YOU ARE A PRINCESS-- PRINCESS AI!

"PRINCESS," "PRINCESS"-- WHAT A JOKE!

YEAH, RIGHT. BECAUSE HAYABUSA SAYS SO, RIGHT?!

I'VE GOT STUFF I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF. GET ME HAYABUSA!

STOP USING THAT WORN-OUT LINE FOR ONCE!

...HAYABUSA REALLY WANTS YOUR DEBUT ALBUM TO BE PERFECT-- THERE'S NO HOT DIVA RIGHT NOW, SO THE WORLD IS READY FOR YOU.

PRIN-CESS, PLEASE ...

FINE-- GET ME TAKESHI!

HE'S A VERY BUSY GUY...

Hey, Yoshi-- put me down!

HERE ...

...I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO OPEN UP TO ME. DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

YOU'RE SO SPECIAL.

WHEN YOU SING--YOUR SONGS--IT'S LIKE MAGIC.

I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE FEELING I GET WHEN I LISTEN TO YOU SING.

IT'S NOT JUST ME-- YOU HAVE A SPECIAL POWER.

HAYABUSA WANTS ME TO BE A DIVA SO HE CAN MAKE MONEY.

LIKE I CARE!

I LOVE TO SING...

...BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT FAME OR ATTENTION-- I'VE GOT OTHER STUFF ON MY MIND!

YOUR SONGS-- AND YOUR MAGIC-- CAN TRULY SAVE THE WORLD.

I WISH I COULD SEE HIM...

PRINCESS ...

SO WHO'S GOING TO SAVE ME...?

DON'T SPOIL HER, YOSHI.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU WANT TO SEE?

WOULD YOU LET ME? REALLY ...?

FOR YOU, PRINCESS-- OF COURSE. WHO IS IT?

Heavy object

UM...

WELL....

I WANT TO SEE... KE-- I MEAN-- JEN.

OKAY.

I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS-- IF I LET MYSELF GIVE IN, KENT WILL JUST BE IN MORE DANGER...

NO PROBLEMS AT TODAY'S RECORDING SESSION?

SO, PRINCESS, WILL YOU BE A GOOD GIRL TODAY?

YOSHI-- USE A LEASH OR CHAINS IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT LET'S GO.

ENOUGH OF THIS LOVEY-DOVEY BABBLE. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO-- AND WE'RE LATE.

.....

NO PROMISES.

--I'LL BITE YOU!

NEXT TIME YOU THREATEN ME--

RIP

RIP

YOU JUST DID BITE ME, AND YOU TORE UP MY SCHEDULE!

Uh oh...

OWWW!!

WHY--U YOU--!!

OH, AND BY THE WAY, TAKESHI'S COMING TO THE STUDIO TODAY.

IS THAT SOME SORT OF FLASHBACK...?!

Are you okay, Hiro?

CHAINS...?

AI--
DON'T YOU DARE CAUSE A SCENE!

YOSHI, LET'S GO!

Yes, ma'am!

AI!!

ひゃー

WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?!

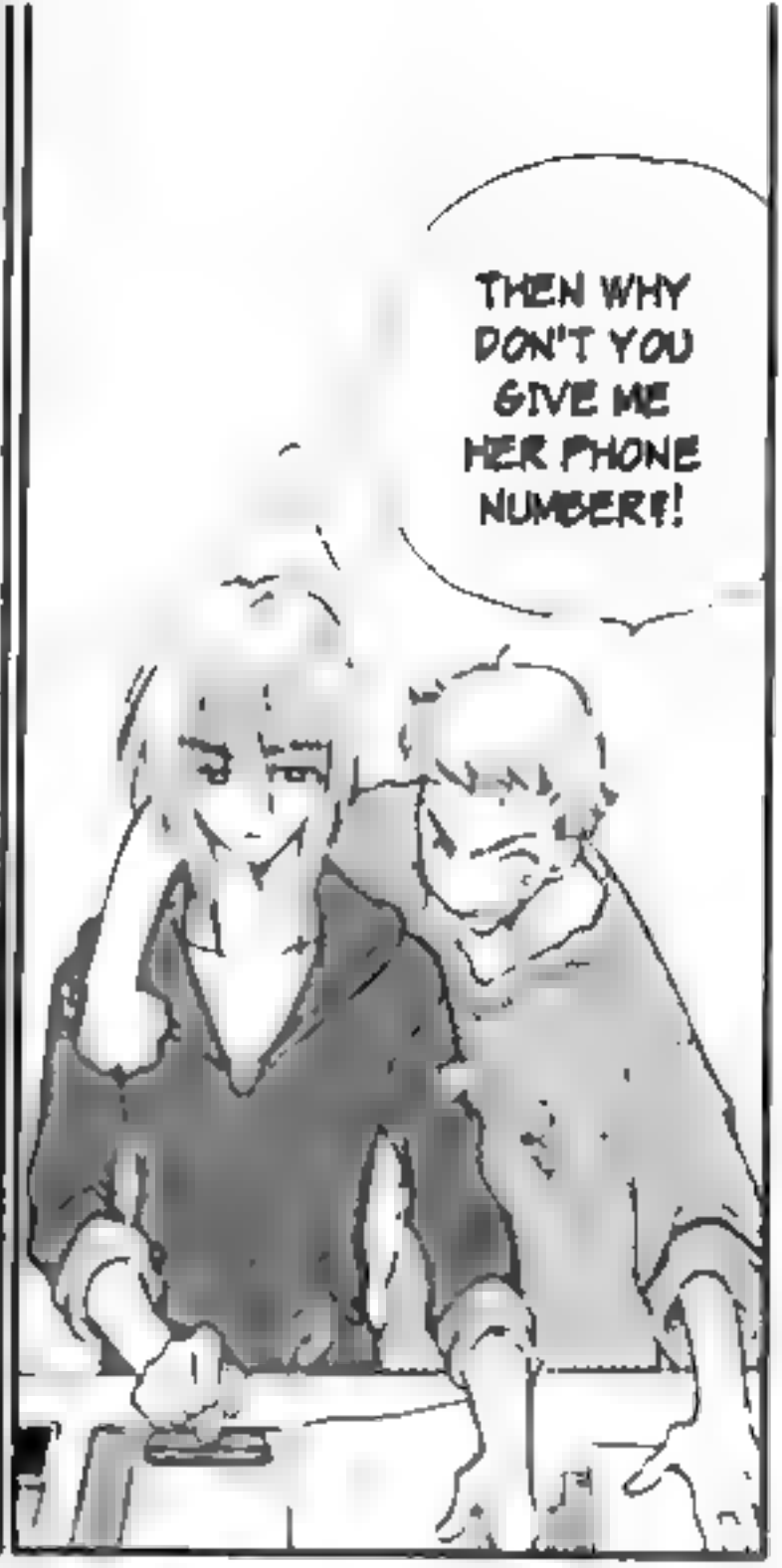
HE'S JUST THERE TO WATCH YOUR RECORDING SESSION--NOT TO GET INTO ANYTHING.

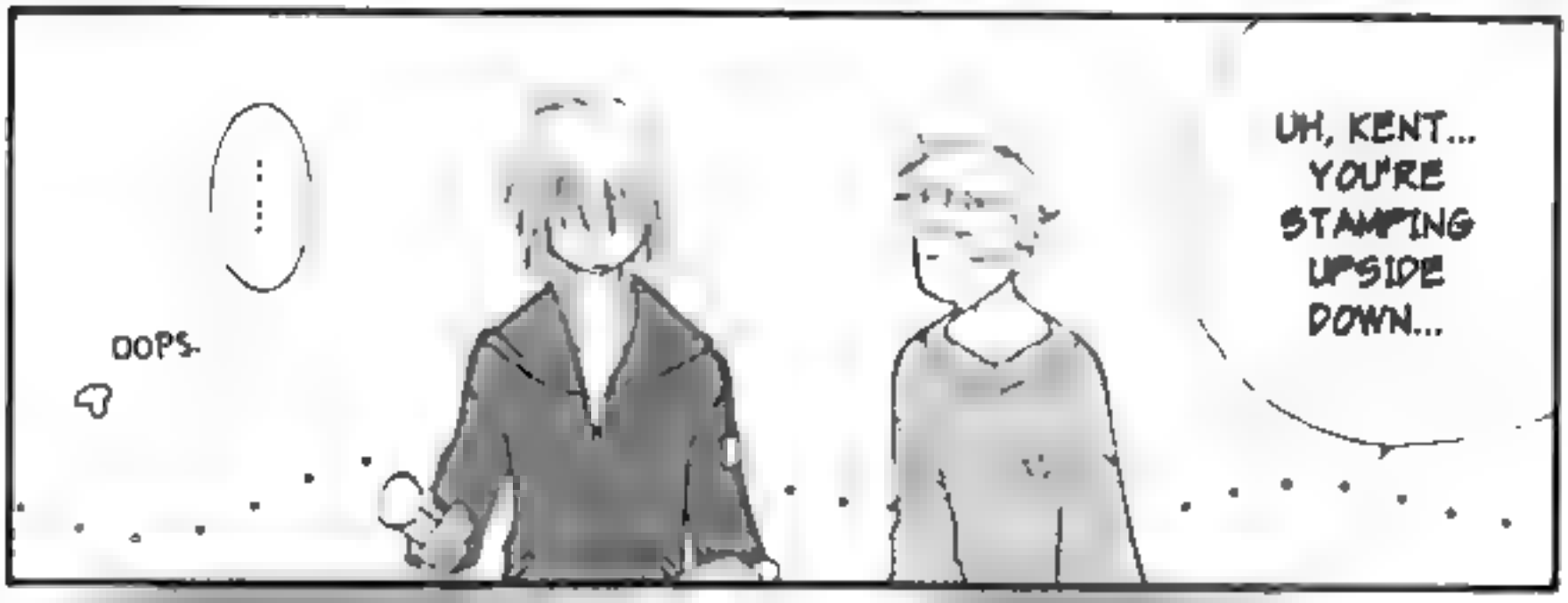
Hmph.

MAN, LIFE'S BEEN BORING LATELY.
NO MONEY, NO FEMALE ACTION...
...BEING A COLLEGE STUDENT SUCKS.
OH WELL.
HEY, KENT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT HOT-LOOKING FOREIGN GIRL YOU WERE AFTER?
I WASN'T AFTER HER.
WHAT WAS HER NAME-- AI?
Ai...

*Sign: Shinjuku University Library

STAMP
STAMP
BET LOST, DAI-SUKE.


THEN WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME HER PHONE NUMBER!!


DOPS.
UH, KENT... YOU'RE STAMPING UPSIDE DOWN...

WE SHOOT EARLY...

WE'VE GOT TO SHOOT THE MUSIC VIDEO TOMORROW TO GET IT TO THE NETWORKS.

TODAY'S SESSION IS CRITICAL, SINCE WE GO INTO FINAL MIXING TOMORROW. RADIO AIRPLAY STARTS THE FOLLOWING DAY.

OOH-- I'M SICK OF YOUR SCHEDULES. GIVE ME SOME TIME OFF!

SINCE I'VE ARRIVED AT THIS PLACE, THAT DRAGON-WINGED WITCH HASN'T FOUND ME. BUT STILL...

...I'M GOING NUTS BEING TRAPPED HERE.

フラ

コト

IT'S DEFINITELY TIGHT, BUT WITH SOME EFFORT AND FOCUS, IT'S DOABLE.

TAKESHI PLANS ALL THE SCHEDULES, SO WE CAN'T CHANGE THEM. SORRY, PRIN-CESS.

HE'S DEAD.

Schedule spare copy

DROWN!!

Gasp!

PRINCESS, YOU'LL HURT HIM!

HEY, GUYS!

SPLASH

AGGH!

She's always so violent...

I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU EMOTIONAL SUPPORT-- CAN'T YOU AT LEAST BE A LITTLE EXCITED TO SEE ME?

TODAY'S YOUR FINAL RECORDING SESSION FOR THE FIRST SINGLE.

?!!

I THINK I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN YOU WERE DROWNING ME.

EXCITED?! I'LL SHOW YOU EXCITED! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, AND YOU'D BETTER LISTEN GOOD!

WHAT--?

YOSHI, YOU FREAK, BACK OFF!

WOW, TAKESHI-- YOU'VE GOT AMAZING TATTOOS!

Relax, Takeshi-- I like my men with pecs.

ドキドキ

WHY IS MY HEART SUDDENLY BEATING SO FAST...?

AN ANGEL...

AN ANGEL...

SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IMAGE... IT MAKES ME FEEL FUNNY...

I HEARD THE SCRATCH MIX OF "ON YOUR LEASH." GREAT DEBUT SINGLE!

DEFINITE HEAVY ROTATION...

TAKESHI, YOU REALLY THINK SO?

YOU CHANGED THE TITLE TO "ON YOUR LEASH?!"

I'M NOT SOME SUBMISSIVE SEX SLAVE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU-- AND ALL MEN-- SEEM TO WANT!

THAT SONG'S CALLED "BROKEN LEASH"-- NOT "ON YOUR LEASH."

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS ISN'T A GAME FOR ME.

IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? WE'RE MAKING YOU A STAR!

WHAT GOOD IS STARDOM IF I CAN'T EVEN GO TO THE LIBRARY?

THAT'S THE POINT. IT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF-- BREAKING AWAY FROM THIS LEASH H.T.A. PUT ON ME!

"BROKEN LEASH" SOUNDS SO... REBELLIOUS.

YOU WANT TO GO THERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.

NOT JUST ANY LIBRARY-- SHINJUKU UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, RIGHT!

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE TO BORROW BOOKS.

We offered to buy you some, and you said no...

LIKE MAYBE THE GUY WHO WORKS THERE!

YEAH, I KNOW.

SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE TO SEE HIM. I'M LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL BOOK--THAT I CAN ONLY FIND THERE!

HUH?!

PRINCESS, DEAR-- PLEASE CALM DOWN.

AND EVEN IF I *DID* WANT TO SEE HIM-- IT'S NONE OF YOUR GODDAMN BUSINESS!

IT'S SO EXCITING-- YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE HOTTEST DIVA TO DEBUT EVER!

I READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT YOU IN *YOUNG PEOPLE* MAGAZINE.

UM, EXCUSE ME...

ONE DAY I WANT TO BE A FAMOUS SINGER--JUST LIKE YOU! CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

IT'S MARIKA-- THE CHILD STAR.

YES, RIGHT HERE-- PLEASE SIGN "PRINCESS AI."

HERE, GIVE ME THAT. WHAT DO I DO-- JUST SIGN MY NAME!

MAYBE I SHOULD BE NICER-- AFTER ALL, SHE'S JUST A KID.

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.

NOW!

THANK YOU!

Th-thump

IS YOUR BACK ITCHY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

YOU GET TO MAKE TONS OF FANS HAPPY. IT'S NOT SO BAD, EH?

ZZZ

SEE? THAT'S ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF BEING FAMOUS.

BUT PRINCESS AI ISN'T IN THE MOOD TO SING TODAY, HIRO...

We'll lose our studio time!

THAT'S IT, ALREADY. NO MORE DELAYS!

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL LIKE SINGING NOW.

I NEED TO GET ON WITH MY SEARCH-- TO LEARN WHY I RAN AWAY FROM MY WORLD...

I FEEL A BIT... WARM...

HOW WEIRD...

And why does my back keep itching?

SCRATCH

THE TRUTH IS-- I LOVE TO SING.

LET'S GO, GUYS! WE'RE LATE FOR THE STUDIO!

Huh?!

EVERYONE READY? THIS SESSION'S GONNA KICK ASS!

WE'RE ON IT!

MY SONG-- IT'S COMING TO ME, FLOWING UP THROUGH MY VEINS, THROUGH MY HEART...

THE MUSIC-- I CAN HEAR IT.

LEVEL'S FINE.

MIC CHECK-- ONE, TWO.

THEY CALL THESE "CANS," RIGHT?

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

Wow!

Tied up with knots that won't unwind.
Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind.

Not ready to jump, but I won't look down,
All ready to dump everything around.

THEY'RE FEELING MY ENERGY-- AND THEIR FEELINGS ARE INCREASING MY OWN INTENSITY.

I CAN FEEL EVERYONE WATCHING.

There's no looking back,
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass,
No more broken beast,
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash!

Flutter

WHAT A STRANGE FEELING...

MY SONG...

...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I'VE COME HERE TO FIND... MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS MAGICAL POWER

THERE REALLY IS A POWER HERE, SOME SORT OF MAGIC

SO, HIRO-- WHAT'S YOUR REPORT? IS THE ALBUM READY YET?

I GUESS SHE REALLY BELIEVES HER STAGE NAME "PRINCESS AI"--SHE CERTAINLY ACTS LIKE ONE.

SHE DOES WHAT SHE WANTS, SAYS WHAT SHE WANTS, THINKS WHAT SHE WANTS...

I CAN'T CONTROL HER, SIR.

Beep

Beep

AH, A HIGH-MAINTENANCE DIVA, EH? WELL, DON'T WORRY-- THE TIMING IS PERFECT FOR A DIVA WITH SOME CONTROVERSY.

OUR LITTLE PRINCESS IS BEHAVING JUST AS I HAD HOPED.

THE FANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIVA-- BUT THIS ONE WILL BE THE MOST SCANDALOUS OF ALL. IN FACT, THE SCANDALS WILL BEGIN BEFORE THE FANS EVEN KNOW THEY ARE FANS. THIS WILL BE MY GREATEST PLAN EVER!

Princess Ai

CHAPTER 7

第7話

YOU BOOKED THE EDITING BAY FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, HIRO. WE'LL PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER AND PUT THIS BABY IN THE CAN. HERE-- HAVE SOME CAFFEINE.
Ice pack
Red Cow
...AND WE'VE GOT TO GET THE MUSIC VIDEO OUT TO THE NETWORKS AS WELL.
NO SLEEP UNTIL DAWN.
TOMORROW, THE SINGLE SHIPS OUT TO THE RADIO STATIONS...

YEAH, BUT THIS PROJECT'S THE BIGGEST IN PRODUCTION. HAYABUSA AND TAKESHI ARE REALLY INTO THIS CHICK.

MAN, I'VE BEEN ON FOUR DIFFERENT SETS FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT.

Hey, that AI chick is pretty hot -

I THINK I'M GONNA FALL OVER.

HERE.

Tied up with knots that won't unwind.

Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind...

IS THIS HER SONG?

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT YET? THIS THING ROCKS!

!

DOES IT EVER...

MAN, WITH THIS SONG AND THE RED COW, I'M GOOD TO GO!

← The director

THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT! DAH-LIN, YOU'RE MAH-VELOUS! ♡

H T A. models on the lot

HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD THE RUMOR? THEY SAY THOSE WINGS AREN'T JUST PART OF HER COSTUME-- THEY'RE REAL!

GET REAL! THAT WOULD MAKE HER, LIKE, NOT HUMAN, Y'KNOW?

THE RAGS WILL WRITE ANYTHING TO SELL COPIES.

GET A LIFE!

WELL, I HOPE THE RUMOR'S TRUE-- THOSE WINGS LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL ON PRINCESS AI!

...AND YOU'RE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, PRINCESS.

ONLY A FEW MORE TAKES TO GO, SO HANG IN THERE.

Dressing Room

Princess A1様

YOU DID GREAT...

THANK YOU.

PRINCESS, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU.

knock knock

I'LL GET THE DOOR.

I'LL PREPARE YOUR OUTFIT FOR THE NEXT SCENE.

JEN!

SURPRISE! ♡

YOU CAME TO SEE ME!

AI--!

THIS man-- er, woman-- brought me here.

AI, LONG TIME NO SEE!

I'M SORRY, JEN.

HOW'S EVERYONE AT THE CLUB?

I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU--YOU HAVEN'T VISITED US AT CLUB CUPID!

...I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT'S TIME TO SHOOT THE NEXT TAKE.

UM, PRIN-CESS...

PLEASE GET MY FRIEND A CUP OF COFFEE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JOINED H.T.A.--HOW EXCITING!

SAME AS ALWAYS.

WE CAN CATCH UP AFTER YOU'RE DONE FILMING.

AI, IT'S OKAY. I'M FREE TODAY.

HEY, YOSHI-- I HAVEN'T SEEN JEN FOR A LONG TIME. I'LL BE THERE WHEN I'M READY!

Made to feel something inside ..

Far too real, too much pain to hide

Not ready to run, but my feet won't stay,
Already too done for these birds of prey

EVERYONE, TAKE FIVE WHILE WE CHECK THE PLAYBACK ON THE MONITOR.

AND... CUT!

ぼわーん

WHAT A WOMAN...

.....

PLEASE, MA'AM-- KEEP BACK. THE VIDEO SHOOT GOT THEM WOUND UP.

COME HERE, BOYS.

WOOF

WOOF

NO ONE COULD TAKE THEIR EYES OFF YOU.

AI, THAT WAS INCREDIBLE! YOU WERE RADIATING OUT THERE.

thanks, jen.

HELP!

WOOF

WOOF

DOWN, BOYS!

WOW, AI REALLY CALMED THEM DOWN.

なでなで♡

WHIMPER

!

ALL RIGHT, BUT LET'S HURRY UP AND FINISH IT.

PRINCESS, THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO DO ONE OR TWO RETAKES.

GLOW

ALL EYES ARE ON ME... IT FEELS SO WARM...

Swept away by all his lies.

Kept away while the earth cries.

AI IS THE ROCK DIVA I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--

WELL, TAKESHI, YOU HAVE TRULY UNCOVERED A GEM HERE.

Not ready to go but it's time to leave.
Already too low to get up and plead.

--SHE'S PERFECT FOR MY ULTIMATE PRODUCTION.

HEY, KENT!

KEEENNNT!

KENT!

新潟大学図書

Shinjuku University Library

I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE ON MY DAY OFF AND YOU CALL ME AN IDIOT?

.....

HEY, THAT'S NOT NICE.

YOU'RE IN THE LIBRARY-- SHUT UP ALREADY.

TAKE A LOOK!

はっ

YOUNG Pe

I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS ARTICLE.

YOU KNOW THE RULES, DAISUKE. DON'T BE SUCH AN IDIOT!

I SAW A BUDDY OF MINE READING THIS, SO I GRABBED IT.

THIS IS HER, RIGHT?

Princess Ai – Rock Diva from Heaven Here on Earth

Music industry insiders expect the hottest debut album ever

IT'S THAT HOT-LOOKING FOREIGN GIRL YOU LIKED, ISN'T IT?

MAN, YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE HER WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.

Too late now-- she's famous.

COOL NAME, TOO: PRINCESS AI.

SHE IS SO HOT-- YOU BLEW IT, KENT.

DUDE, SHE'S A STAR! PRETTY COOL, EH?

HAYABUSA TALENT AGENCY-- THEY MANAGE ALL THE TOP ARTISTS.

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT H.T.A.?

I thought you were into music, Kent...

SHUT UP ALREADY, DAISUKE. WHAT IS THIS "H.T.A."?

WHAT'S WITH THOSE WINGS ANYWAY?

WINGS...

OOPS...

SO THAT'S WHO THAT ASSHOLE AT THE CLUB WAS..

Myths and Angels

SORRY, MAN. I'LL PICK THEM UP.

HUH?

KENT, I GOTTA GO. FINALLY GOT MYSELF A DATE!

See ya!

ANOTHER ANGEL BOOK?

SOMEONE MUST HAVE JUST FINISHED WRITING A PAPER ON ANGELS.

...HE'D BETTER KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING AND NOT SCREW HER OVER.

THAT H.T.A. JERK...

THIS BOOK LOOKS ANCIENT...

"HUMAN HISTORICAL MYTHS: THE ERA OF THE FIRST AI-LANDIC REVOLUTION."

AI... AI... LAND ...IC...

"THE YOUNG KING SEI MIGHTILY DEFEATED THE DOUGEN BEASTS, QUELLING THEIR REVOLT AND RETURNING THE HUMAN COLONY TO PEACE ONCE AGAIN."

"THE DEVIOUS DOUGEN BEASTS ATTACKED USING POISONOUS EXTRACTS OF ALL KINDS."

AN ANGEL IN A CAGE..

HOW CRUEL..

AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN FIND IN A LIBRARY...

HEY, MAN, YOU CAN'T PLAY GUITAR IN HERE.

RULES SOMETIMES NEED TO BE BROKEN.

PERHAPS SHE WAS LOOKING FOR A BOOK JUST LIKE IT.

.....?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? THAT TITLE, THOSE ILLUSTRATIONS...

WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS BOOK...?

SHE...?

YOU MEAN...

...AI?!

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, NOTHING WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU.

NOW YOU'VE JOINED HER SEARCH.

DON'T DOUBT WHAT YOU FEEL.

WHAT IF SHE WON'T LET ME HELP HER?

I WOULD JUST GET IN HER WAY.

SHE'S BEYOND ME NOW-- BEYOND ANYTHING I CAN GIVE HER.

HEY,WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY...?

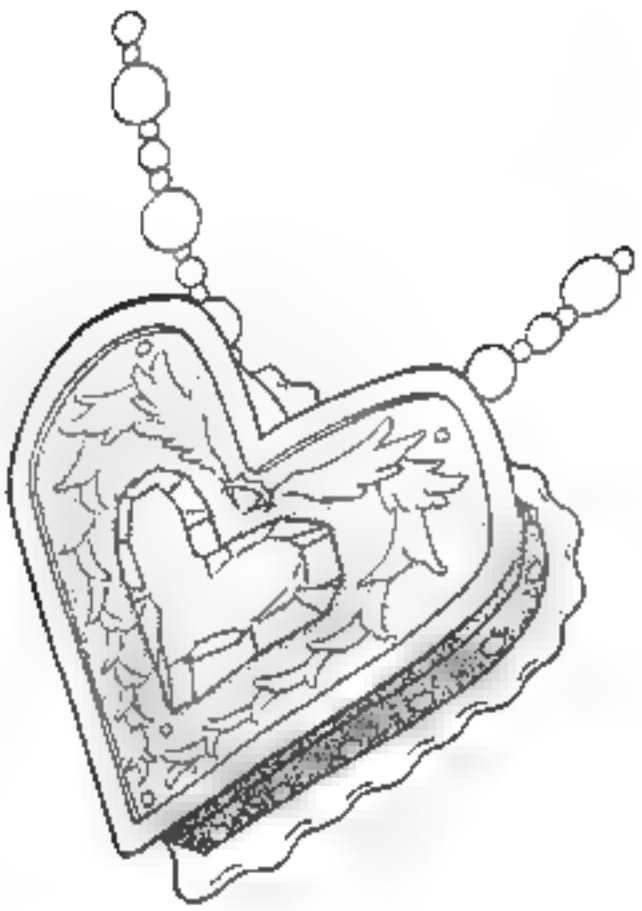
WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IS WITHIN YOUR POWER.

!

Human Historical Myths
The Era of the First
Ai-Landic Revolution

CHAPTER 7

FIN



CHAPTER 8

第8話

KENT!

HM?

トントン

I LOVE COOKING DINNER FOR KENT. ♡

OH NO-- I'M REALLY LATE.

HIKARU

I'VE GOT TO GO RUN AN ERRAND

ARE YOU GOING OUT?

BUT I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS..

WHAT ABOUT DINNER? DID YOU ALREADY EAT?

I'LL GET SOMETHING LATER. GO AHEAD AND EAT WITHOUT ME.

...WE'RE DOING GREAT AS ROOMMATES.

きゃー♡

WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR DINNER?

I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY! ♡

THIS IS A SERIOUS ERRAND, HIKARU.

SORRY...

LET'S NOT PUSH IT FURTHER.

WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?

AT LEAST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

IT'S HER. YOU'RE GOING TO...

YOUNG People

...SEE HER...

I'M GOING TO VISIT H.T.A.

I'LL BE BACK LATER.

H.T.A.?

HIKARU...

I NEED TO GIVE AI AN IMPORTANT BOOK.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

PLEASE, HIKARU...

DID SHE GIVE YOU A PASS?

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN? H.T.A. IS GUARDED LIKE FORT KNOX.

HIKARU?

WHAT?

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

NO, NOTHING. I'M READY TO HELP!

THANKS!

SIGH

HOW CAN I SAY NO WHEN HE FLASHES ME THAT SEXY, NEEDY POSE?

I'VE GOT A ROUGH CUT OF THE "BROKEN LEASH" MUSIC VIDEO.

HI, YOSHI-- I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN...

Hot off the Presses!

GO AHEAD AND PUT IT ON.

THE ONE WE SHOT EARLIER TODAY? WOW, THAT'S QUICK TURNAROUND.

PRINCESS, YOU REALLY LOVE THAT WING OUTFIT, DON'T YOU?

do you even take baths with them on?

I JUST HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YET...

Flutter

Flutter

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MY WINGS ARE REAL.

FOR SOME REASON, THEY SEEMED SMALLER YESTERDAY.

WELL...I... UM...I DON'T REALLY... KNOW...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOSHI?

THEY'RE TINGED WITH RED NOW, TOO. COULD THAT MEAN I'M GETTING SICK?

...AND FEEL EVERYONE WATCHING...

WHEN I SING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE...

...IT'S LIKE A KIND OF MAGIC.

PLUS...

...I FEEL THIS STRANGE POWER.

WELL... I...UM... I'M NOT... SURE...

What DO YOU think, Yoshi?

I'M STARTING TO THINK THE TWO ARE CONNECTED-- THAT MAGICAL POWER I FEEL AND THE GROWTH OF MY WINGS.

trip

OWW!

OH NO--MY GLASSES!

↑ Academy Award for Hikaru

Hmm

Hmmm...

I'LL HELP YOU LOOK.

YES, I DID. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

Here's an orange that fell.

DID YOU LOSE YOUR GLASSES, SON?

I made it this far

I WONDER WHICH BUILDING SHE'S IN...?

THANK YOU, SIR.

NO CLUE...

UM, PRINCESS... CAN I ASK... WHY DO YOU HAVE WINGS?

WHAT?

BY THE WAY, PRINCESS...

IT'LL BE A MAJOR SCANDAL IF ANYONE FINDS OUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. HOW CAN A PERSON HAVE WINGS...?

EVERYONE THINKS THEY'RE FAKE.

WELL, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY'VE BECOME SO BIG IT'S HARD TO HIDE THEM.

...HOW COME YOU'RE BEING SO BRAZEN WITH YOUR WINGS TODAY?

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.

LATELY I'VE FELT SO TRAPPED HERE AT H.T.A.

THAT IS, UNTIL SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO ME TOLD ME HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY WERE.

AT FIRST, I WAS ASHAMED OF MY WINGS.

...THEY CALM ME DOWN WHEN I LET THEM BE FREE.

THESE WINGS...

!

ARE YOU OKAY?

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING.

WHAT'S THAT MUSIC?

ARE THEY FILMING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

You're my angel back in heaven,
Lost among the free...

Trapped up in that tower,
Looking down upon my plea ..

IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE HIM...

...BUT HE COULDN'T BE HERE.

IS THAT KENT'S... VOICE?

I WANT TO GO OUTSIDE... TO SEE IF IT'S HIM...

...BUT I DECIDED NOT TO SEE HIM ANYMORE!

I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT THE TV...

IT'S STRANGE...

...THE WORD "ANGEL" SOUNDS SO BEAUTIFUL COMING FROM HIM.

If only I could climb up there...

...and sort through your debris. .

...BUT DON'T ACTUALLY MEET UP WITH HIM...

IF I JUST SPOT HIM FROM AFAR...

I'd bring this angel back to heaven,
For all eternity...

SHUT UP, ALREADY! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!

YOSHI, I'M BORROWING YOUR ID CARD!

PRINCESS F!

GUARD, DO YOUR JOB!

slip

HEY, YOU OVER THERE!

UH OH

HE ESCAPED

HUH?

OH, MISS AI!

CHECK THE VICINITY FOR OTHER SECURITY BREACHES!

WHERE'S THE GUY WHO WAS SINGING?

SM
CENT.

THIS HUMAN TYRANNY MUST NOT CONTINUE ANY LONGER.

IT IS TIME WE TAKE BACK OUR BLOOD AS WELL AS OUR FREEDOM

FINALLY, THE SECOND REVOLUTION BEGINS!!

Ai.

AI...

YOU MUST RUN AWAY

YOU MUST LEAVE AI-LAND.

THE TIME IS NOW.

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY-- YOU MUST ESCAPE WHILE YOU STILL CAN

I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU BUT YOU MUST GO

NORA..

I UNDERSTAND YOU--HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE. BUT THE WORLD WILL NOT-- NEITHER MY PEOPLE NOR YOUR OWN

...I DON'T WANT TO BE APART.

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.

I'D RATHER BE WITH YOU THAN BE SAFE.

KENT!

NORA ...?

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, KENT.

I WANT TO BE WITH...

KENT, LET ME GO...

BEING AROUND ME IS VERY DANGEROUS.

Human Historical Myths
The Era of the First
Ar-Locke Revolution

blink

WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM...

HEY, THIS PENDANT OPENS UP...

MY FATHER ...

NORA...

THE TWO MEN IN MY LIFE...

clink

SLIP

HOW COULD I FORGET!

TO ME, OUR LOVE WAS WORTH FACING ANY DANGER TOGETHER.

AFTER THAT PARTING MOMENT WITH NORA-- I VOWED TO NEVER AGAIN LET GO OF THE ONE I LOVED.

...BUT I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT KENT.

I WISH I COULD SEE HIM TO ASK HIM WHY...

!

BUT KENT...

...HE BROUGHT THIS BOOK TO ME.

...IT CHANGED TO KENT?!

THE PICTURE...

SCREW THE BREAKFAST MEETING-- I'M BUSY!

Can't you see?

OH, PRINCESS-- PLEASE?!

GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS! ♡

knock knock

WHY'D IT CHANGE? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!

WE'VE GOT A BREAKFAST MEETING TO ATTEND.

ARE YOU UP?

COME ON, YOU'VE GOT TO EAT.

YOU'LL MEET UP WITH AI AGAIN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST THE BOOK...

KENT, YOU'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT.

New Rock Diva Princess Ai

THEY SAY THAT PRINCESS AI IS DEFORMED-- OR MAYBE NOT EVEN HUMAN AT ALL...

THE LATEST RUMOR IS THAT HER WINGS ARE NOT JUST A COSTUME-- BUT REAL APPENDAGES.

THE WHITE-HOT NEW ROCK DIVA IS MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF BEYOND JUST HER MUSIC.

JUST BUY ANOTHER BOOK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE SPREADING SUCH A STUPID RUMOR...

THOUGH IT MAY SEEM CRAZY, SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING THIS RUMOR VERY SERIOUSLY

LOOK-- IT'S AI.

IT JUST GOT ME GOING!

THE MOMENT I HEARD "BROKEN LEASH" ON THE RADIO, I HAD TO RUSH OVER HERE TO GET A COPY.

Princess Ai
Broken Leash

A LINE OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAS ALREADY FORMED TO BUY PRINCESS AI'S DEBUT CD.

I'M HERE LIVE OUTSIDE A MAJOR RECORD STORE IN TOKYO.

SHE'S THE PRINCESS OF DOOM-- AND THOSE WINGS PROVE THAT SHE'S NOT HUMAN!

THAT MUSIC IS SUNG BY A DEMON!

DON'T LET EVIL INTO YOUR LIFE!

PRINCESS OF DOOM... WINGS OF THE DEVIL?!

STOP THE DEMONIC MUSIC!

...TO PICKET PRINCESS AI'S SONG AND CD RELEASE.

AT THE SAME TIME, A GROUP OF CULT-LIKE PROTESTORS HAS GATHERED..

THEY'RE THE ONES TO TALK! LOOK AT THOSE WEIRDOS!

AI'S DRAWING TOO MUCH ATTEN-TION TO HERSELF.

HUH?

.....

KENT, WE SHOULD GO TO THAT *HEAVEN TONIGHT* TAPING.

MAYBE YOU CAN FINALLY SEE AI AGAIN-- LET'S TRY TO GET TICKETS!

MAYBE SHE'LL FLAP HER WINGS FOR US. HEH HEH.

WELL, JUDGE FOR YOURSELF IF PRINCESS AI IS A BLESSING OR A CURSE-- SHE'S PERFORMING LIVE TONIGHT ON THE HIT VARIETY SHOW, *HEAVEN TONIGHT.*

GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS.

WE HAVE TO TALK.

I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS. EARLY SALES SHOW THAT PRE-ORDERS ON "BROKEN LEASH" ARE HIGHER THAN ANY DEBUT SINGLE IN HISTORY.

WHAT NOW?

I'VE PERFORMED MY CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS-- RECORDED MY SONGS, PERFORMED IN THE VIDEO, AND DID THE INTERVIEWS.

NOW IT'S TIME YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

I NEED TO HANDLE SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF H.T.A.

MY PENDANT, TOO-- WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

JUST THE FACT THAT I HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION IS BULL.

THAT'S RIGHT.

...IT FEELS LIKE MORE THAN JUST A DREAM.

THAT DREAM I HAD...

LET ME GUESS-- SHINJUKU UNIVER-SITY?

I FEEL LIKE THAT LIBRARY HAS THE ANSWERS TO ALL MY QUESTIONS...

PERFORMED YOUR CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS ...?

BE A GOOD GIRL AND DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD.

flap

PRINCESS AI, YOU'RE NOT OFF THE HOOK YET. WE'VE GOT LOTS MORE TO DO.

DID YOU FORGET ABOUT TONIGHT'S TV PERFORMANCE?

WHERE IS THAT REPULSIVE BITCH AI HIDING..?

TOO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED WANDERING THESE STREETS

?!

IS THE NEW ROCK DIVA...

WHO IS PRINCESS AI

..PART BEAST?

Princess AI
Broken Leash

WELL WELL...

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

SINGLE CD WITH BONUS MUSIC DVD

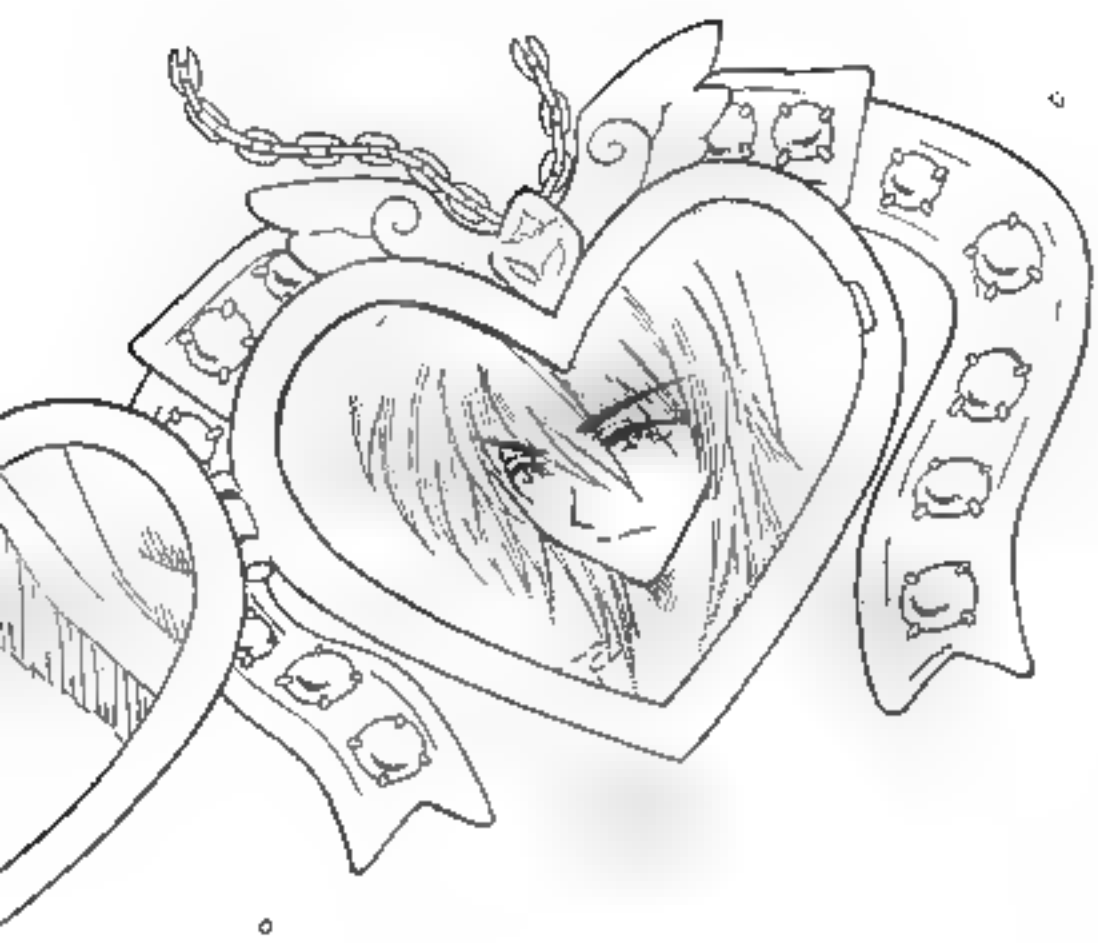
I'VE FOUND YOU AGAIN AI.

NOW YOU RE FINALLY MINE!

"MANAGED BY H.T.A...."

CHAPTER 8

FIN



Princess Ai

CHAPTER 9

Human Historical Mythology
The Era of the First
Aquatic Revolution

第4話

It's me--

--Jen!♡

I CAME TO VISIT, AI!

JEN, YOU'RE SO SWEET. THANKS FOR BEING MY FRIEND.

I'M FREE TO HANG OUT ALL DAY.

HEAVEN TONIGHT IS THE HOTTEST SHOW ON THE AIR! ♡

IT'S SUCH AN EXCITING TIME-- I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE PERFORMING TONIGHT ON TV!

H.T.A. Takashi Hayakawa

Culture note: In Japan, a straw doll called a "Wara-ningyo" is used against enemies in much the same way as a voodoo doll.

I DON'T CARE-- I'M NOT DOING IT!

WH-WHAT ...?

I WANT OUT OF MY CONTRACT-- I'M NOT THEIR SLAVE!!

SCREW H.T.A.! THEY TRY TO CONTROL ME WHEN I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO.

SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE IN YOUR POSITION.

AI, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT SELFISH? THINK OF HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO WORK WITH H.T.A.

SLAVE?

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF MY WORLD.

JEN, YOU JUST DON'T GET IT.

BIT BY BIT, THROUGH STRANGE FLASHBACKS, I'VE PIECED TOGETHER AS MUCH AS I COULD.

NOT LONG AGO, I FOUND MYSELF ON EARTH WITH NO MEMORY OF MYSELF OR MY PAST.

I'M FROM A PLACE CALLED AI-LAND, ON THE OTHER SIDE.

YOUR... WORLD...?

I'M NOT FROM HERE, JEN.

BACK IN AI-LAND, AS PRINCESS, THE TRUTH WAS HIDDEN FROM ME. BUT I SENSED IT ALL...

MY WORST FEARS HAVE PROVEN TO BE TRUE...

BUT THIS BOOK THAT KENT BROUGHT TO ME--EVEN BACK IN AI-LAND, I HAD NO IDEA.

AGAINST MY FATHER'S WISHES, I SECRETLY LEARNED ABOUT THE DOUGEN AND EVEN GOT CLOSE TO A VERY SPECIAL ONE NAMED NORA

AI-LAND IS A WORLD WITH TWO SETS OF INTELLIGENT LIVING BEINGS: THE HUMAN AND THE DOUGEN

THE DOUGEN LEADERS-- THEIR ROYALTY-- ARE THE ANGELS ANGEL BLOOD CONTAINS TENKETSU, WHICH IS A POWERFUL SOURCE OF ENERGY ON AI-LAND

MOST HUMANS BELIEVE THE DOUGEN ARE EXTINCT, BUT THERE ARE WHISPERED RUMORS THAT THEY STILL EXIST

OLDER PEOPLE CONSIDER THE DOUGEN TO BE HORRIBLE EVIL CREATURES, BUT YOUNG PEOPLE ADMIRE THE DOUGEN'S SHOCKING AND SACRED NATURE

I KNOW KING SEI VERY WELL--HE'S MY FATHER.

KING SEI RUTHLESSLY QUASHED THE DOUGEN REVOLUTION, UNLEASHING A RAGING CRUELTY UPON THE ANGELS

THE BOOK DESCRIBES HOW THE YOUNG KING SEI LED THE HUMAN FORCES TO SUPPRESS THE DOUGEN REBELLION.

TRAGICALLY THE HUMAN LEADERS ENSLAVED THE DOUGEN TO CAPTURE THE PRECIOUS TENKETSU A FEW DECADES AGO, THE DOUGEN LED BY THE ANGELS-- FINALLY ROSE UP IN REVOLUTION

I NEED TO KNOW THE ENTIRE TRUTH-- ABOUT MY FATHER, ABOUT THE DOUGEN...

...ABOUT NORA... AND ABOUT MYSELF-- WHO I **REALLY** AM!

I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO AI-LAND!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE!

THIS IS ALL SO MUCH FOR ME...

AI-- PLEASE, CALM DOWN.

SCREW H.T.A. AND SCREW MUSIC!

WHY SHOULD I SING FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ME?!

Gasp!

AI...

--WHY CAN'T YOU?!

KENT UNDERSTOOD ME--

I'M.. SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

BUT I HAVE TO BE FREE--

--SO I MUST GET OUT OF H.T.A.

PLEASE, BELIEVE ME...

...THESE DOUGEN-- AND ANGELS-- THAT I SPEAK OF...THEY --REALLY, DO NEED MY HELP.

THAT FURIE--HER HATRED--HOW CAN I BLAME HER! AFTER EVERYTHING WE HUMANS--AND MY FATHER--HAVE PUT THEM THROUGH...

ABOUT TIME I FOUND YOU!

HUMANS AND DOUGEN--WE MUST UNDER-STAND AND RESPECT EACH OTHER.

THE CRUELTY, THE SLAVERY--IT HAS TO STOP.

BUT HOW...!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

ANY CLOSER, AND I'LL JUMP!

WHAT YOU DO IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS-- I JUST CAME UP HERE TO GET SOME FRESH AIR AND WORK THROUGH SOME OF MY PROBLEMS.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS FINALLY ALONE...

FIGURES. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME.

YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING GOING FOR YOU--I'VE GOT NOTHING.

TRIVIAL?! MY PROBLEMS ARE WAY MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!

GET LOST-- YOUR PROBLEMS ARE TRIVIAL.

I'VE SEEN YOU-- YOU'RE THAT NEW ROCK DIVA.

HMPH.

...NOW MY MANAGER WON'T EVEN TAKE MY CALLS.

I DIDN'T GO PLATINUM, DIDN'T GO GOLD...

AND FOR WHAT? TO BE THROWN OUT LIKE A USED NOTEBOOK?

I...I DID EVERYTHING THEY ASKED ME TO DO.

PUT UP WITH ALL THE CRAP-- DID THE WHOLE "GRIN AND BEAR IT" ROUTINE.

I HAVE NOTHING LEFT-- NOTHING LEFT OF ME...

I...I JUST... WANT TO FORGET IT ALL... FOREVER...

I GAVE UP EVERY-THING FOR THIS...

...NOW I'M ALL ALONE.

ALONE.

I KNOW THE FEELING...

...BUT...

Alone doesn't hurt anymore
The pain's too strong to feel it.
Alone doesn't work anymore
There's no one left to heal it

If I turn my back on it all
And walk away from this place
Then maybe someone will find
These dried-up tears on my face.

Too many voices
They're far too loud
If I could leave this world
Would they all shut up

None of them mine
To hear my pain inside.
Leave it all behind
And watch my Suicide Ride?

If I look my faith in the eyes
And let my tears flow with grace
Then maybe someday I'll find
A life for me to embrace.

Faith doesn't come from inside
You've got to go and get it.
Faith doesn't stay by your side
You've got to not regret it.

Dear Mai-chan
From your biggest fan!

crinkle

Too many voices
They're far too loud
If I could leave this world
Would they all shut up

None of them mine
To hear my pain inside
Leave it all behind
And watch my Suicide Ride?

I WAS JUST SINGING, WASN'T I!

OH, JEEZ-- THAT GIRL... DID SHE JUMP?!

I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE-- HOW EMBARRASSING!

I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING-- NOT JUST FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR THEIR SAKE, TOO.

IF H.T.A.'S GIVEN UP ON ME, I'LL FIND ANOTHER AGENT...

I NEED TO LOOK MY FAITH IN THE EYES-- AND FIND A LIFE TO EMBRACE.

NO, I DIDN'T.

I MAY NOT BE A STAR, BUT I DO HAVE A FEW FANS...

MY WINGS... THEY'RE GROWING AGAIN...!

THANK YOU...

...FOR YOUR SONG.

flap

flap

MY SONG...

MY SONG...!

...SAVED HER...!

IT'S TIME TO GO--YOU'VE GOT A RADIO INTERVIEW BEFORE YOUR APPEARANCE ON *HEAVEN TONIGHT.*

I'LL PERFORM--

EVEN THOUGH I HEARD YOU DON'T WANT TO PERFORM TONIGHT...

I ONLY CARE ABOUT ONE THING: FINDING A WAY TO SAVE MY WORLD.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT H.T.A...

--BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU GUYS WANT ME TO.

MAYBE-- JUST MAYBE-- THE POWER OF MY SONG CAN HELP...

C.D.K.TV

DON'T BE SWAYED BY THE DIVA OF DOOM!

PRINCESS AI IS PRINCESS DOOM!

MUSIC FROM HELL!!

Stop the evil noise!

STOP PRINCESS AI!!

IT CERTAINLY LOOKS THAT WAY...

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION? IT'S JAM-PACKED.

COULD THIS CROWD ..

...BE HERE TO SEE AI?

PRINCESS AI HAS FINALLY COME TO SAVE US WITH HER ANGELIC VOICE!

IS THIS WHERE OUR SAVIOR PRINCESS AI WILL PLAY?

Savior Princess AI?!

HIS WRITINGS PROPHESIED AN ANGELIC PRINCESS NAMED AI WITH A HEAVENLY VOICE.

WE ARE NO HERETICS, BUT SIMPLY **SEERS**, STUDENTS OF THE WISE VISIONARY SIR EDWIN SEE.

YOU FANATICAL HERETICS-- HOW CAN YOU CALL THAT DEMONIC DIVA YOUR SAVIOR?!

YOU'RE BOTH NUTS! AI'S JUST A GIRL-- AND A CLUELESS AND OBNOXIOUS GIRL AT THAT!

.....

He's kinda right.

KNUCKLE

HELP!!

SHE'S A DEMON!

YOU INSULTED OUR SAVIOR!

.....

.....

Ah?

THIS SONG-- IT'S JUST SO AMAZING.

LET'S LISTEN TO "BROKEN LEASH."

WE'VE STILL GOT A WHILE UNTIL THEY START SELLING TICKETS.

THE TRAIN BOUND FOR SHINJUKU WILL BE ARRIVING ON PLATFORM 3.

PRINCESS AI'S MUSIC-- IT'S LIKE IT TRANSCENDS GENERATIONS, TOO. EVEN MY PARENTS ARE INTO IT!

YEAH, I REALLY FEEL IT INSIDE ME.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

LIKE SHE WROTE HER SONGS FOR ME...

--IT'S LIKE I FEEL HER AND WHAT SHE'S SAYING.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE LYRICS OR THE MUSIC--

PRINCESS AI.

COOL SONG-- WHO IS IT?

YEAH, IT'S WEIRD.

USUALLY MY PARENTS AND I HAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT TASTES.

They like country typical parents.

--TO TELL HER HOW MUCH SHE MEANS TO ME.

I JUST WISH I COULD MEET PRINCESS AI ONE DAY--

TURN IT UP SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR--!

Here's the button.

REALLY?!

TURN ON THE RADIO!

THEY'RE INTERVIEWING PRINCESS AI ON WHOL-FM!

ANYONE BRING A RADIO?!

ALL RIGHT!! YEAH!

PRINCESS AI IS PRINCESS DOOM!

DON'T BE BRAIN-WASHED BY THE DEMONIC DIVA!

WE ARE VERY LUCKY TO PRESENT THE FIRST EXCLUSIVE RADIO INTERVIEW FROM THE HOTTEST DEBUT ARTIST EVER: PRINCESS AI.

LET'S GET STARTED WITH A FEW QUESTIONS.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THE SUDDEN ATTENTION?

THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY AT WHOL-FM!

...I'M JUST GRATEFUL THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND LOVE MY SONGS.

.....

I DON'T KNOW...

SO WHAT'S YOUR SECRET? DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF MAGIC POTION?

YOUR MUSIC SEEMS TO TOUCH PEOPLE.

YOU'VE REALLY CAUSED A SENSATION.

SOME PEOPLE SAY THERE'S NEVER BEEN A ROCK DIVA AS GREAT AS YOU.

YOU'RE WITH H.T.A., THE HOTTEST TALENT AGENCY ON THE PLANET-- DO YOU FEEL LUCKY TO WORK WITH THEM?

OKAY, LET'S GO ON.

HUH?

SO.. SO YOU WON T REVEAL YOUR SECRET?

WHAT A STUPID QUESTION.

LET'S JUST SAY "NO COMMENT."

WOULD YOU FEEL LUCKY IF YOU WERE HELD IN THE HOTTEST PRISON ON THE PLANET?

.....

YOUR REALITY IS MY ILLUSION.

FINALLY, THE QUESTION EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO-- ARE YOUR WINGS REAL?

WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MY MUSIC?

WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.

HERE'S THE FIRST CALLER--

OKAY.

UH, WELL... THANKS FOR THE INTERVIEW. LET'S TAKE A FEW PHONE CALLS FROM YOUR FANS!

SUPER HAPPY! AI-CHAN, NICE TO MEET YOU!! I'M SO NERVOUS--!

OH MY GOSH, AM I REALLY CONNECT-ED?!

IS THAT YOU, PRINCESS AI?!

I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE FOR YOU--THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A LIGHT INTO MY DARKNESS.

HI, MISS AI!

I E-MAILED YOUR SINGLE TO A GUY I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON. HE DUG IT SO MUCH--

I LOVE YOUR SONGS!

I'M GLAD I COULD HELP...

OH, WOW, THANK YOU, PRINCESS!

...AND EVEN MY PARENTS FINALLY STOPPED TRYING TO MOLD ME INTO THEM.

WITH HELP FROM YOUR SONGS, I STARTED MAKING SOME REAL FRIENDS...

I CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW MUCH YOUR SONGS HAVE CHANGED MY ATTITUDE. I WAS TIRED OF THE FIGHT--THE RAT RACE. BUT YOU GAVE ME NEW PERSPECTIVE. FOR EACH NEW SONG YOU MAKE, I GET A TON OF NEW ENERGY TO KEEP ON FIGHTING THE FIGHT.

HEY, PRINCESS AI-- I'M PSYCHED I GOT THROUGH!

--AND NOW WE'RE GOING OUT! IT'S LIKE A DREAM! THANKS SO MUCH, PRINCESS AI!

PLEASE KEEP BLESSING US WITH YOUR AMAZING SONGS!

MAY I HELP YOU?

UH...

UM...

...

HELLO?

WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF GRATITUDE FOR ONE DAY. DO ANY CALLERS OUT THERE ACTUALLY HAVE A QUESTION? LET'S TRY ONE MORE CALL.

UH, YEAH.

...I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING KIND OF PERSONAL.

WELL...

WEIRD HEARING MY OWN VOICE ON THE RADIO.

KENT?!

THAT VOICE--
IT COULDN'T BE!

I WAS KIND OF HOPING YOU WOULD.

I'VE BEEN REALLY TORN, FIGHTING BETWEEN THIS FEELING I HAVE INSIDE ME AND WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEAD.

SEE, A CERTAIN SOMEONE LEFT ME BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO PROTECT ME, BUT I THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT I PROTECT HER.

OKAY, WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY HERE-- ASK YOUR QUESTION ALREADY...

...!

LET ME ANSWER HIS QUESTION.

IT'S FINE.

HEY, MAN, THIS ISN'T A LOVE ADVICE TALK SHOW!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS PROPER AND WHAT IS NOT--AND I DO KNOW THAT IT'S EASY TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MANY THINGS...

WE ALL NEED TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU IGNORE THAT, THEN YOU'LL NEVER TRULY FIND YOURSELF.

...BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT EVEN IF YOUR HEAD TELLS YOU TO NOT DO SOMETHING, THE PUREST EMOTION COMES FROM YOUR HEART.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WOULD IT BE PROPER FOR ME TO BRING MYSELF BACK INTO HER LIFE?

SOMETIMES, TWO PEOPLE TOGETHER CAN ACCOMPLISH THINGS TOGETHER THAT NEITHER ONE COULD DO ALONE-- I'VE REALLY BEEN STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT LATELY.

REALLY?

THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTION.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD SHOW TONIGHT--I'LL BE THERE TO CHEER YOU ON.

YOU'LL BE THERE?!

Kent's coming tonight...!!

ONCE AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST TODAY-- PRINCESS AI--ON WHOL-FM.

Switch off

WHAT?

I'M SUPPOSED TO SING A BALLAD?

NO WAY.

NOPE!

I'M REVVED UP AND READY TO GO--TIME FOR SOME HARDCORE PUNK!

Hmph!

What a great outfit!

TAKESHI INSISTS ON IT.

PLEASE, PRINCESS.

TAKESHI'S GONNA KILL ME...

I've got music sheets for the band, too!

KENT WILL REALLY DIG ME HARD-CORE!

Princess Ai!!
Princess Ai!!

We love you, Ai!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR--

--PRINCESS AI!!

WOO!

ALL RIGHT!

YEAH!

Princess

WOOOO!

AI ROCKS!

WE LOVE YOU, AI!

WOOOOO!

CRUMBLE

CHAPTER 9

FIN

CHAPTER 10

第10話

パラ パラ

……?!

- PRINCESS
Ali"

TAKESHI...!!

NOT THAT DRAGON-WINGED WITCH AGAIN!

KENT!

...AND THE CAMERAS ARE ROLLING!

EVERYONE WILL SEE YOU...

TCH...

ROAR

GROWL GROWL

KEEP PLAYING.

BUT--

DO IT.

NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND COME WITH ME SO WE CAN AVOID A MESSY FIGHT

WHAT DO YOU SAY, PRINCESS AI?

RED ALERT-- ALL GUARDS STAND BY OFFSTAGE!

AT'S GONNA KEEP PERFORMING!

HMPH

IF THAT S WHAT YOU WANT LET S TAKE IT TO THE MAT'

!

I've got you beside me,
If you trap me, you trap you.

I've got you inside me,
If you hate me, you hate you.

--ALL THE PAIN SHE'S SUFFERED.. ALL THE HATRED BOTTLED UP INSIDE...

I CAN SEE IT IN THE FURIE'S EYES VERY CLEARLY NOW--

We're both to blame,
me and you.

We're both the same,
me and you.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY--

--THAT WE'RE THE SAME?!

GET BACK!

わ AI!!

KENT...!

!

I SAID GET BACK!

Okay!

YEEEAHH!!

ALL RIGHT, A!!

MUST BE... I GUESS.

WHAT A WEIRD CONCERT

IS THIS STAGED?

It's pretty cool

YAY!

IT STARTED KIND OF SHAKY

..BUT I GUESS IT'S OKAY

We're both insane, me and you
We're both the same, me and you

YOU HUMANS-- YOU TREAT US LIKE WE'RE THE BEASTS--

--WHEN IT'S **YOUR** KIND WHO ACT LIKE SAVAGES!

WHAT?!

WHO IS THAT DRAGON LADY?!

JUST DODGE THE FLAMES AND KEEP ON PLAYING!

YEOW-- THAT'S HOT!

All this fury torn and shredded up to rot

Boiling over strapped all tied up in knots...

I'm not what you think I am...

I won't let you make me be .

?!

*I've had enough of your f***ed up game!*

So it's time you listen to me!

NO?

I DIDN'T RUN AWAY!

LISTEN TO YOU? A PRINCESS WHO RUNS AWAY FROM HER PEOPLE?

--TO PURSUE A CAREER IN SINGING POP SONGS, PRINCESS!!

WHACK

SO YOU LEFT YOUR HOME AND YOUR PEOPLE--

?!

IT'S LIKE A CONCERT, A PLAY AND SPORTS ALL AT ONCE!

WHAT A SHOW!

WE LOVE YOU, AI!

WE'RE ALL CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER!

PRINCESS AI, YOU'RE SO RIGHT-- WE MAY SEEM DIFFERENT, BUT WE REALLY ARE THE SAME!

flap

flap

THANK YOU!

?!

AMONGST THE DOUGEN ANGEL WINGS MEAN NOBILITY

!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!

ARE YOU --?

IS THE RUMOR ABOUT KING SEI TRUE?

BUT NONE OF THE ANGELS HAVE WINGS WITH RED FEATHERS

AND HUMANS DON'T HAVE ANY WINGS AT ALL!

IT'S UP TO ME TO SAVE AI-LAND FROM ITS SUFFERING...

...AND THAT INCLUDES SAVING THE DOUGEN.

I DON'T KNOW.

RUMOR ABOUT KING SEI...?

...BUT I KNOW WHY I CAME TO THIS WORLD.

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MY PAST...

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO I AM, OR EVEN WHAT I AM-- EXCEPT THAT I'M PRINCESS AI.

I'M STILL LEARNING ABOUT MYSELF AND THE POWER INSIDE ME...

THOUGH I'M LABELED HUMAN, IT DOESN'T MEAN I AM WHAT YOU THINK I AM.

...SO HELP ME HELP YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE AI-LAND.

I CAN'T ANSWER FOR THEIR DEEDS. YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU.

WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU? YOU'RE A HUMAN PRINCESS-- CONCEIVED AND RAISED BY THE SAME HUMANS WHO DECEIVED US.

LET'S GO THIS!
COME ON!

I've got you within me,
If you slash me, you slash you.
I've got you beneath me,
If you smash me, you smash you

THAT FREAK HAS QUIETED DOWN. NOW'S OUR CHANCE-- GET HER!

!

HMPH

YANK

RUMBLE

Princess

Rilipp

AW, SHIT!!

WHOA!

THE STAGE --!!

AGGHH!!

FOR SOME STRANGE REASON I BELIEVE YOU SO IF YOU WANT TO SAVE US DOUGEN.

!!

AI!

I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU--

THEN

--PRINCESS AI

W-WHAT THE-?

S-S-SURPRISE

I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.

HMPH

SOME STAGE.

AI...?!

WHERE'S AI?!

KENT!!

WHAT'S UP...?

OH...

.....

WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER AGAIN...

...AND ALL YOU CAN SAY IS "WHAT'S UP"?!

YOU--

--YOU JERK!

COME HERE, YOU!

grab

whack

I MISSED YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, EXACTLY, BUT I KNOW THAT OUR FATES ARE LOCKED TOGETHER.

PLEASE...

THERE'S SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT-- LIKE THE RED BOOK...

YOU FOUND IT? AFTER ALL THAT? WHAT A RELIEF!

...TAKE THIS AND WEAR IT FOR ME.

THAT WAY, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MY HEART WILL BE WITH YOU.

...JUST HOLD ME.

BUT, FOR NOW...

PERHAPS ABOUT YOUR SISTER TESS?

NOBLE SIR I HAVE BAD NEWS

I REGRET TO TELL YOU WHAT MY MORBID INSTINCTS TELL ME WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE TESS SOMEHOW LOST HER WILL SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED - I'M NOT SURE WHAT

AI...

THAT BITCH--
IF WE CANNOT
BRING HER BACK
HERE, WE WILL
NEVER BE
ASSURED OF
SEALING AWAY
THE HUMAN
ROYAL
FAMILY

MEGGI--I HAVE
NO CHOICE BUT
TO SEND YOU
DON'T FAIL
ME LIKE YOUR
SISTER DID!

I WON'T LET
YOU DOWN,
SIR!

THANK
YOU,
NOBLE
ONE.

THERE WAS A BIT OF TROUBLE, BUT THE AUDIENCE LOVED IT.

GOOD JOB.

SHE GOT MY BLOOD FLOWING.

LOOKS LIKE OUR ROCK DIVA IS EVEN MORE REBELLIOUS THAN I HAD IMAGINED.

INDEED.

BY THE END OF THE WEEK, THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF TEENAGERS WILL BE HER DEVOTEES.

...SHE'S THREATENED TO BREAK HER CONTRACT... REFUSED TO COOPERATE... THERE IS A POINT WHERE ONE CAN CROSS THE LINE.

YET...

...?

TAK-ESHI--

--HOW MANY SONGS DID OUR ROCK DIVA RECORD IN THE STUDIO?

WOW, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE-- SHE WAS INCREDIBLY PROLIFIC.

PROBABLY SANG PARTS OF MAYBE THIRTY SONGS OR SO IF NOT THE WHOLE THING.

NO ONE THREATENS H.T.A. AND GETS AWAY WITH IT. IT'S TIME WE TAKE OUT INSURANCE.

HOW?

TAKESHI, YOU'RE MY BEST GUY-- CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO DO WHATEVER I ASK!

BOSS, YOU HINTED THAT YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN...

RECORD MORE SONGS... TAKE HER ON A STADIUM TOUR...

...SHOOT EVERY MOMENT OF HER ON VIDEO...

...AND THEN--

OF COURSE, BOSS.

--TAKE HER OUT.

CHAPTER 10

FIN

Princess Ai™

BONUS

Prince Ai

Bonus Side Story

...A TRIP FOR TWO.

CHECK IT OUT-- I WON A TRIP TO AN ONSEN...

♡

An "onsen" is a natural hot spring--a great place for a relaxing weekend away from the hustle and bustle of city life in Tokyo.

NO, I'M GOING WITH KENT!!

I'M GOING WITH KENT!

DO YOU GUYS WANT--

Yay, an onsen!

It's a Date!

きゃあ

YOU FREE-LOADER-- THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING!

WHO'S THE FREE-LOADER HERE?!

きゃあ

I'LL PAY FOR ONE MORE TICKET--SO WE CAN ALL GO TOGETHER *IN PEACE.*

Humor me.

--but would it really be as peaceful as Kent had hoped...?

So, the trio headed off to a luxurious onsen resort--

WOW, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE! ♡

I LOVE VISITING A RYOKAN-- IT'S SO RELAXING. ♡

HEY, IS THIS A CASTLE?

Al

HIKARU

DON'T BE STUPID.

SHUT U UP!

*Ryokan: a traditional Japanese inn

I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME...

Al and Hikaru's luggage

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. SIGH.

LOOK-- THE RYOKAN'S NOT THE ONLY BEAUTIFUL THING. CHECK OUT KENT IN HIS YUKATA-- YUMMY!

*Yukata: a light, cotton, summer kimono

SPLASH

男湯

MEN

天然

OH WELL-- KENT, I GUESS IT'S JUST US GUYS. ♡

HEH HEH.

AHHH...

peace at last

WHAT? THIS IS DISCRIMINATION! I WANNA GO IN, TOO!!

I didn't come all the way here just for a shower!

GET AWAY! YOU'VE GOT TO CHILL OUT, HIKARU--TRY A COLD SHOWER.

NO WAY AM I LEAVING YOU ALONE WITH KENT

DINNERTIME!

A ROYAL FEAST!

OOOH!

ABOUT A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL TEMPTRESS WHO CHARMED ALL THE PEOPLE SHE MET. IN THE END, SHE LEFT EARTH FOR HER HOMELAND, THE MOON--LEAVING THE ONE WHO LOVED HER LONELY FOREVER.

IT REMINDS ME OF A FAIRY TALE I HEARD AS A KID.

THAT FULL MOON...

...IS SO INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.

HE PULLED A FEW ALL-NIGHTERS THIS WEEK FOR FINALS...

HIKARU FELL ASLEEP.

LOOK--

--A FULL MOON!

MM.

Zzz, I'm stuffed!

IN THE END, THE MOON PRINCESS DIDN'T TAKE HER EARTH LOVER HOME WITH HER.

I HOPE SHE CAN'T HEAR MY HEART POUNDING RIGHT NOW...

IT'S FUNNY...

That night...

But I booked two rooms...

SIGH.

...HOW MUCH THAT SILLY FAIRY TALE REMINDS ME OF AI.

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

Princess Ai's journey of discovery continues...but our tempestuous Princess may not like what she finds! As more outrageous assassins arrive from Ai-Land, H.T.A. unveils its plan to turn their hot new diva into a falling star. Even with Kent by her side, can Ai avoid her enemies and still find a way to bring peace to her troubled homeland?

Don't miss the final stage of Ai's development: Evolution!

Princess Ai

This volume featured four original *Princess Ai* songs. For your enjoyment we've included the full lyrics. For more information about these songs and D.J. Milky check out www.djmilky.com!

"Broken Leash"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

Kept away while the earth cries
Swept away by all his lies
Not ready to go but it's time to leave
Already too low to get up and plead

Made to feel something inside
Far too real, too much pain to hide
Not ready to run but my feet won't stay
Already too done for these birds of prey

CHORUS
Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
bow wow no more broken beast
just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Tied up with knots that won't unwind
Fed up with cruel dreams acting kind
Not ready to jump but I won't look down
All ready to dump everything around

Look at my hands what they reveal
Shook by one glance what they conceal
Not ready to hit what I just can't see
All ready to quit what I can't set free

CHORUS
Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

Woof woof there's no looking back
That one shot at freedom through the looking glass
Bow wow no more broken beast
Just rip off this collar with that broken leash

"Primal Fury"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

I've got you inside me
If you hate me, you hate you
I've got you beside me
If you trap me, you trap you.
I've got you within me
If you stash me, you stash you.
I've got you beneath me
If you smash me, you smash you

We're both the same, me and you
We're both to blame, me and you.
We're both insane, me and you
We're both the same, me and you

You can't live without me
If you kill me, you kill you
You won't care about me
If you mock me, you mock you
You don't look before me
If you use me, you use you.
You don't see beyond me
If you lose me, you lose you

We're both the same, me and you.
We're both to blame, me and you.
We're both insane, me and you.
We're both the same, me and you.

All this fury torn and shredded up to rot
Boxing over strapped all tied up in knots
I'm not what you think I am
I won't let you make me be
I've had enough of your f***ed up game
So it's time you listen to me

We're both the same, me and you
We're both to blame, me and you
We're both insane, me and you
We're both the same, me and you

We're both the same, so f*** you.
We're both to blame, so f*** you
We're both insane, so f*** you.
We're both the same, so f*** you.

"Seraph Serenade"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

(You re my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Gritty demented cloth
Covering up flesh born to rot
Lace wound up so tightly and taut
That bitter screams of breath would get caught

Bloody circumcised heel
Kicking in the doors made of steel
Stiletto razor-sharp so surreal
That sunny dreams of death wouldn t feel.

You re my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Dirty penalized belt
Whipping up trouble with each pelt
Leather stained so worn it could melt
That haunting demonic rage with one welt

Musky vilified veil
Smothering cries of living hell
Dust choking cries to such avail
That holy waters rise with one wail

(You're my)
Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there,
and sort through your debris
(I'd bring this)
Angel back to heaven
For all eternity

Angel back in heaven
Lost among the free
Trapped up in that tower
Looking down upon my plea
If only I could climb up there.
and sort through your debris
Angel back in heaven
Captured just for me

"Suicide Ride"
© 2004 D.J. Milky (BMI)

Alone doesn t hurt anymore
The pain s too strong to feel it
Alone doesn t work anymore
There s no one left to heal it
If I turn my back on t all
And walk away from this place
Then maybe someone will find
These dried-up tears on my face.

PRE-CHORUS alternating lines)
Poor thing (I can show them all
She could have been so
Pretty so thin (What they never could see
She could have been so
Smart so rich (Once they watch my fall)
She could have been so
Loved so blessed (They'll finally notice me)
She could have been but
She never got a grip (If I just lose my grip)

CHORUS
Too many voices
None of them mine
They re far too loud
To hear my pain inside
If I could leave this world
Leave it all behind
Would they all shut up
And watch my Suicide Ride?

Faith doesn t come from inside
You ve got to go and get it
Faith doesn t stay by your side
You've got to not regret it
If I look my faith in the eyes
And let my tears flow with grace
Then maybe someday I'll find
A life for me to embrace

PRE-CHORUS (alternating lines)
Poor thing (I can show them all)
She could have been so
Pretty so thin (What they never could see)
She could have been so
Smart so rich (Once they watch my fall)
She could have been so
Loved so blessed (They'll finally notice me)
She could have been but
She never got a grip (If I just lose my grip)

CHORUS
Too many voices
None of them mine
They re far too loud
To hear my pain inside
If I could leave this world
Leave it all behind
Would they all shut up
And watch my Suicide Ride?

1. The initial story for *Princess Ai* began in the United States, where D.J. Milky--while visiting TOKYOPOP's offices from Tokyo--plotted the rough outline with editor Rob Tokar. They planned the entire three-volume series (and much more!) before a single page was drawn.

PRINCESS AI: LUMINATION

Scene 3

Characters: Kaz, Meggi

Location: Ai-Land. Same type of elegant and mysterious atmosphere as in the previous chapters.

Plot: Meggi is at Kaz's side again. Clearly, she is infatuated with Kaz and is very excited to be with him. She tells Kaz that her sister Tess has not succeeded. "Noble sir, I regret to tell you what my sororal instincts tell me. Tess, while on the Other Side, has lost her will to fulfill. Something has happened. I'm not sure exactly what."

Kaz listens, nodding. He also senses that Tess has lost her fight. Kaz has no choice. "That bitch--if we cannot bring her back here, we will never be assured of sealing away the Human Royal Family. Meggi. I have no choice but to send you. Don't fail me like your sister did!"

Meggie smiles like a vixen, excited to be able to please Kaz and to put her skills of vengeance to work. "Thank you, thank you, noble one. I won't let you down, sir!"

Scene 4

Characters: Hayabusa, Takeshi, two masseuses

Location: H.T.A. complex. Hayabusa is getting a massage in a very sophisticated and luxurious spa within the H.T.A. complex. He is lying down on a massage bed, with a towel over his bottom half. A beautiful and obedient masseuse is massaging Hayabusa's back and shoulders with oil. He is still wearing his sunglasses and holding a TV remote control in his hand. A plasma TV is on the wall and the final scene from the *Heaven Tonight* show highlighting Princess Ai's performance is just finishing. Takeshi is in a comfortable chair against the wall, with his feet in a bucket of warm, bubbly water, soaking. Another petite yet pretty masseuse is holding one of his feet, massaging it just outside of the bucket. Hayabusa begins to talk to Takeshi.

Plot: Hayabusa turns off the TV via remote control just as the concert ends. He snickers and turns his head to face Takeshi. "Looks like our rock diva is even more rebellious than I had imagined. By the end of the week, the entire population of teenagers will be her devotees."

Takeshi nods, smiling in agreement. "Yes, sir."

Suddenly, Hayabusa's facial expression becomes cold and hard. Takeshi is a bit surprised. "It looks like she's trying to change the game--no one is permitted to do that."

Takeshi tries to cover a bit of fear. "How so?" he asks.

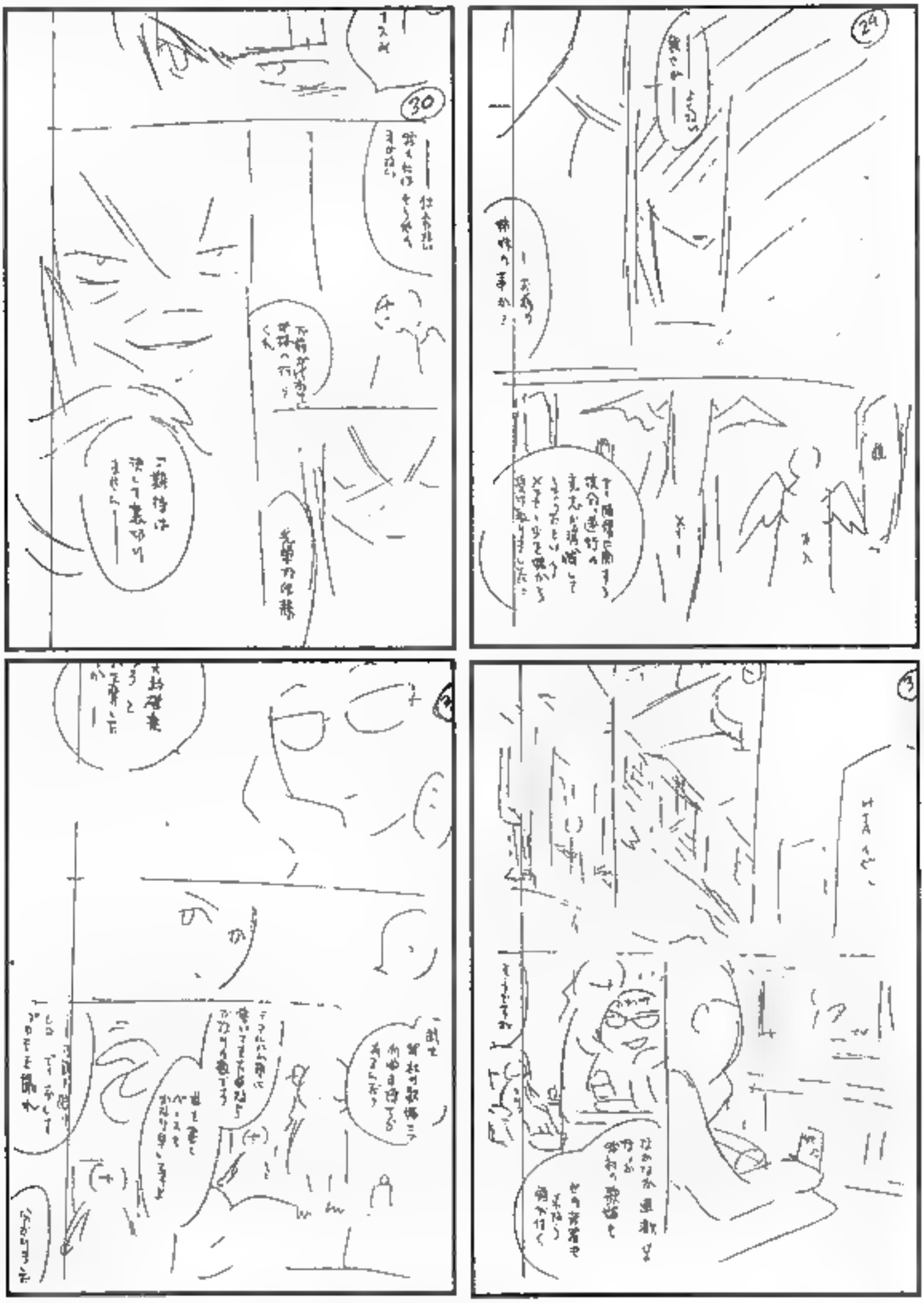
Hayabusa mutters, almost to himself. "Threatening me with breaking the contract, refusing to cooperate--there is a point where one can cross the line."

AI-VOLUTION OF A MANGA

BEHIND THE SCENES OF *PRINCESS AI* VOLUME 2 LUMINATION

Princess Ai has been hailed by many as a fresh, exciting new manga...but those people don't know the half of it. Behind the scenes, the trans-global creative process used to create *Princess Ai* was in many ways as complex and innovative as the story itself. For those of you who haven't heard, *Princess Ai* is the first story to be jointly produced by TOKYOPOP and Japanese publisher Shinshokan, and it is published chapter-by-chapter in the monthly Japanese magazine *WINGS*. How do we do it? Read on!

2 Taking his plot to Tokyo, Milky worked with talented manga-ka Misaho Kujiradou and her editor Akane Ishii to refine the storyline. From this revision, Kujiradou created the "name" (the Japanese term for rough layouts of manga pages), complete with rough dialogue.



3. After reviewing the name with Ishii and Milky, Kujiradou made any agreed upon revisions and drew more finished versions of the pages in pencil.

4. Once the pencils had been approved, Kujiradou inked the pages, erased any stray pencil lines, and then added tones. Though Kujiradou inked the outlines of the balloons, the lettering itself was added at the publisher (Shinshokan)

5. After five chapters were published, they were collected into a tankoban (graphic novel) of their own. At this point, Kujiradou had the opportunity to retouch the already-published pages if there was anything she wanted fixed or adjusted. If you'd like to see what changes (if any) were made at this stage, check out chapter 10 to compare!

Finally, the English dialogue was written by D.J. Milky and the Japanese pages were retouched and lettered by Jose Macasocol, Jr.

Princess Ai™

FROM THE BOOKSTORE TO THE TOY STORE

Blood, Sweat and Wax: Adding a new dimension to Princess Ai

Did you know that Princess Ai is stepping off the manga page and into your hot little hands? It's true—thanks to Steve Varner and Bleeding Edge!

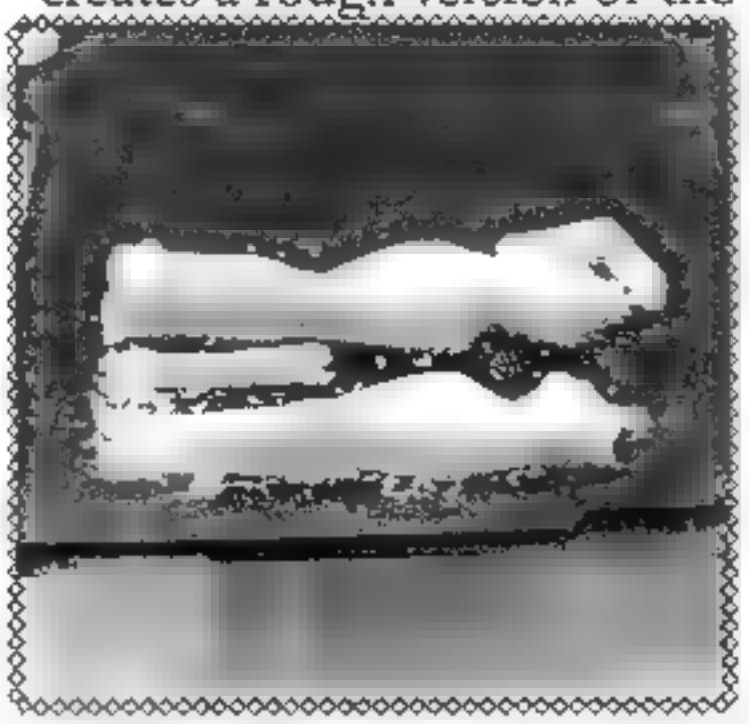
Steve Varner with a work-in-progress.

Steve Varner is C.E.O. and founder of Varner Studios and Bleeding Edge, the company that created the super-popular Bleeding Edge Goths line of dolls. A veteran of the toy business, Steve is also a sculptor: he fashioned the very first Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle figure ever! The studio's list of credits includes Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Star Wars, The Simpsons, Star Trek, Tomb Raider, and South Park. Varner Studios has been producing high-quality toy sculptures for major American toy companies since the 1970's, and they're best known for producing accurate portraits and likenesses of famous people and characters.

Now, Steve and his talented crew of craftspeople are bringing Princess Ai into the third dimension! Several varieties of Ai will be available in both seven-inch and twelve-inch sizes, and it's like the figures just stepped right out of the book. How do they do it? Read on!

The Process:

1 DRAW· First, James does turnaround drawings of all the figures (based on images from the Princess Ai manga.)
2. 3-D: Based on the drawings, a 3-D computer model is built in Maya by Matthew. (Maya is a 3-D computer program that is often used by animators.)
3. SCULPT: The Maya model is transferred to Freeform, a program that Steve finds "more like sculpting by hand" than Maya. When asked about whether he preferred hand sculpting or computer sculpting, Steve explained, "Computer sculpting is used for things that save us time and can be done better with the machine. If sculpting by hand works better, I do that."
4. Ai's head is sculpted separately from her body in Freeform According to Steve, he sculpts a lot of heads for various dolls using that program.
5. POSE: Steve transfers the Freeform-enhanced model back to Maya for re-meshing and to add a skeleton. The skeleton enables the model to be easily posed.
6 WAX: Once a pose is finalized, a 3-D "print" of the figure is made in wax. A "wax printer" creates a rough version of the figure by adding layer after layer of wax in controlled amounts to form a 3-D object. Though he and his staff are more than capable of creating models without the high-tech machinery, Steve noted, "Using computer sculpting and the 3-D wax printer can cut development time in half."



House of Wax:
the untouched wax pr nt

7. MOLD: The wax figure is cleaned up and used to create a rubber mold. Using the rubber mold, a urethane model is made. At this stage, the garments, accessories, and hair are all hand-sculpted on the urethane model using Sculpey, clay and/or wax.

Pieces of Ai:
an unassembled urethane figure.

8. TOOLING: While a tooling copy of the model is sent to the factory to create a steel injection mold (also known as a production mold), white copies of the figure are made in-house for paint samples / approvals. The final paint samples are sent to the factory to be guides for the mass-produced models.

3 Faces of Ai:
just a few of Ai's many looks.

9. PAINT: At the factory, electro-plated masks are created so assembly lines of people and machines can airbrush the paint onto the dolls.
10. QUALITY CONTROL: When it comes to quality control, Steve works with tooling engineers via phone, email and actual trips to China to ensure parts fit together properly, seams are in the right places, and that there is enough room for connectors.

The large dolls' bodies are made in a similar fashion to the bodies of the 7-inch dolls, but their heads and clothes are quite different:

Heads:

The large, hollow, vinyl heads are created using a process called "roto-casting." On the heads, a hairline is drawn, the scalp is sprayed the same shade as the hair color, and the hair is sewn in. Think it's tricky getting your

'Do Over:
a hairstyle under construction.

hair to behave at times? Try styling the hair on a head that's smaller than a golf ball!

Clothes:

The clothes are designed on paper by Bleeding Edge. Bleeding Edge then hires a seamstress in the USA. She is a woman who worked in the Chinese garment industry before becoming Princess Ai's couturier. She begins by creating patterns and then sewing Ai's outfits based on those patterns. After seeing how the outfits work (or don't work) on the figures, she revises the patterns and the garments accordingly. Once approved, the clothed dolls and the patterns are sent to the factory along with fabric swatches.

Wild Yet Styled:
ruffles, ribbons, and rips.

Want to see more about Princess Ai and Varner Studios/Bleeding Edge? Go to www.tokyopop.com, www.varnerstudios.com and www.begoths.com!

Thanks to the Varner Studios/Bleeding Edge staff for showing us a glimpse of how our tempestuous Princess became an absolute doll!

Varner Studios/Bleeding Edge is (in alphabetical order):

Matthew Coffin
Butch Hewitt
Veronica Mihalopoulos
Robert Sutton
Steve Varner
Russell Vossler
Toni Deaso
James Muscarello
Ivy Poon / Hong Kong office
Siw Varner
Ben Velasquez

COURTNEY LOVE, D.J. MILKY & MISAHO KUJIRADOU

While Courtney Love is best known as the controversial front-woman for the alternative rock band Hole, an accomplished actress and for her marriage to Kurt Cobain, it is a little known fact that—before her meteoric rise to fame—she lived and performed in Japan and became a huge manga fan. Her interest in Japanese comics led her to TOKYOPOP, where she collaborated with D.J. Milky to create her fantasy alter ego, Princess Ai.

D.J. Milky likes to eat ramen late at night and bananas for breakfast. Addicted to digital and analog fusion, Milky is in a constant state of flux and irk. Life's one reward comes in the form of making stories, music, and lately shooting DV. Milky has composed a few songs for TOKYOPOP including "School's in Session" (*GTO*), "Initialize" (*Initial D*), and "Worthy of Your Soul" (*Reign*), as well as writing *Juror 13*, *Karma Club* and two *Stray Sheep* books. Milky is currently in development on two manga projects as well as staring intently into the vortex.

Misaho Kujiradou's favorite foods are: natto (fermented soybeans), crab, miso ramen, and her least favorite foods are red beans, cherry lobster, and cold noodles. Her desk motto: If I do it, things will work out. So I do it. Her personality: Do things at my own pace. Stubborn. Timid. High-tech but I hate the phone (laugh). Her current obsessions: 1. Dolls, especially "Super Dolphy" 2. Flower Patterns, especially roses and gorgeous double-blossom floral patterns 3. The color pink. Her other works include *Time Trouble* in Oct. 1997. Her 40-page manga story, *You Are My God of Fame* (a slapstick love comedy) was enough of a hit that she received her first fan-letter for it!

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